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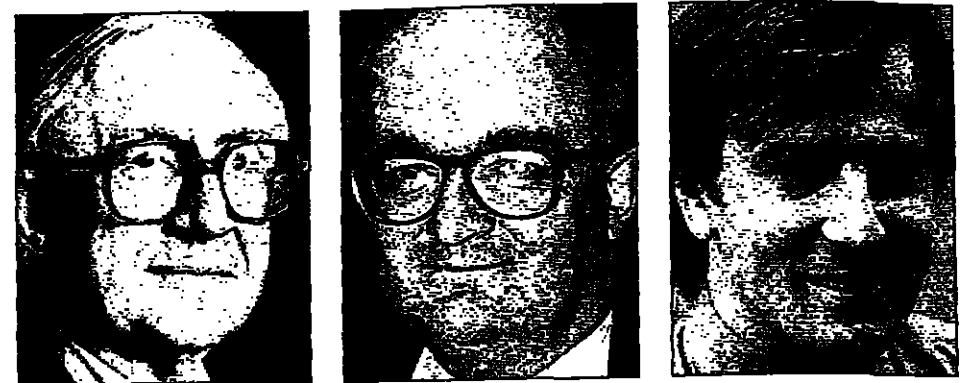
Day-by-day, the paper that

MONDAY

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WEDNESDAY

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Every week, Iain R. Webb, fashion journalist of the year, and Grace Bradberry on modern style

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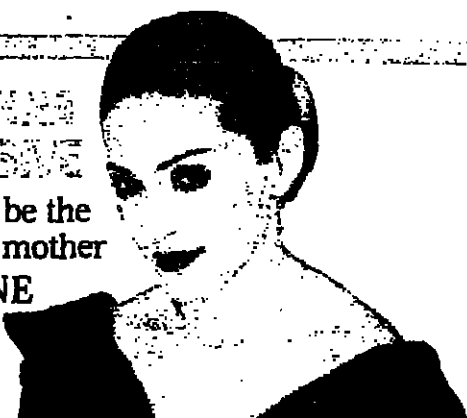


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OUR 52-PAGE GUIDE TO
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INSIDE YOUR 8-SECTION TIMES: OUR WEEKEND MONEY GUIDE TO PEPS • YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £10,000 • QUESTIONS 1, 2, 3 AND 4

'Honest John' cast as man of the people in struggle against 'new Labour, old school tie'

Major turns Tory fire on novice Blair

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR served notice yesterday that he intends to turn the general election into a direct contest between himself and Tony Blair, presenting himself as a straight-talking man of the people compared with a verbose, privileged and out-of-touch novice.

He brought the Conservative conference in Bournemouth to a rousing close with a pledge that he would go out in the towns and streets, meeting as many people face to face as possible because he understood their instincts better than his Labour opponent. The Tories, he said, were better-placed — with hard-edged policies on education, health and crime — to meet people's aspirations for greater opportunities for all.

He told activists, buoyed by a week far more successful than they dared to expect, that the central question at the election was which party could be trusted with the future, and the answer was the Tories. In a foretaste of what Tory strategists admit will be an election battle built round the characters of the two leaders, Mr Major laid heavy stress on his inexperience of the Labour leader, calling him "young Mr Blair" and telling him that prime minister was too big a task for his "first real job".

He again recalled his humble origins, of leaving school at 16 to earn £5 a week. He was casting himself as the man with the common touch against the privileged Mr Blair. He contrasted the grammar school education of himself and Kenneth Clarke with Mr Blair's private schooling, as he quipped, "New Labour, old school-tie".

Laying it on, he added: "I did not come from two rooms

in Brixton to 10 Downing Street not to go out and fight with every fibre of my being for the things I believe in and the country I love."

He mocked Mr Blair's use of extravagant language, the talk of dreams, crusades and passion, and warned that the grander the words the more they should be suspected.

"It is going to be Honest John the Brixton boy against Smarmy Tony," a Tory strategist said.

Trying to show that the Conservatives need a fifth term of office, Mr Major laced his speech with references to the policy announcements made by ministers this week.

Conference reports... 10, 11
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His main new policy initiative was an announcement that courts are to be given the option for the first time to apply electronic tagging curfew orders to juvenile offenders aged between ten and 15. As expected, he promised real-term increases in spending on health through the next five years of Tory government. He reiterated the aim of a 20p tax rate for all and welfare reforms designed to produce a "self-help society" — not a help-yourself society.

He said the Tories must continue to play a full part in Europe but pleased his audience by promising to stand firm against further integration. He spoke of how the week had helped to restore party unity; it was the week

"the Tory family came together to renew the Tory contract with the British nation".

He took head-on the sleaze accusations, saying there had been an attempt to sully the party's reputation. The party might not be perfect nor was everyone in it. But as a whole it was straight, honourable and true, he said. Unlike Labour the Tories were not ashamed of their past, had not abandoned their principles and had not had to reinvent themselves.

But his main theme was that the Conservatives were the party that knew how to improve opportunity for everyone. Using the low-key informal style that will be on show through the election campaign, Mr Major provoked laughter when he told of his birth.

"My father was 66; my mother was surprised," he said. He told how his family were like millions of others, not well off but comfortable until financially "the roof fell in". He left school at 16 because an extra £5 a week mattered.

The message was that Mr Major understands better than Mr Blair the hopes of the people. "I learnt something from that experience. In the game of life we Tories should even up the rules. Give people opportunity and choice, to open up an avenue of hope in their lives. I don't mean some people. I mean everyone."

Mr Major said he would speak for "the millions of quiet, decent home-loving families up and down our country. Alone you cannot hear their soft voice. But collectively they speak for Britain. Our message is for them."



Richard Surtees, at 14 months a Tory conference old-timer, after his intervention right on cue yesterday

Baby heckler in double act with the leader

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A 14-MONTH-OLD baby played straight man to the Prime Minister during his keynote speech to the Tory party conference yesterday, in an unusual political double act. Richard Surtees, son of Hinckley-based East Midlands Tory agent David Surtees and his wife Miriam, made his

presence known to a packed hall as Mr Major addressed the party faithful.

As the Prime Minister launched into a tribute to the individuality of the nation's children, Master Surtees waited his agreement. Mr Major was unfazed by the spontaneous display of support. As delegates laughed, he ad-libbed: "In the old days, they said we

had rigged this conference — but never like that."

To applause, he added: "But don't worry, what I'm talking about is that child's future. If he heckles, well, I'm used to that as well."

Richard's parents said their son had attended the conference all week, and had particularly enjoyed Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's speech.

Adams is blamed for death of Army victim

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Prime Minister yesterday openly accused Gerry Adams of backing terrorism, suggesting that he was implicated in the death of Warrant Officer James Bradwell, who died yesterday from his wounds following the IRA's bomb attack at Thiepval barracks in Lisburn.

John Major told the Sinn Féin president to spare any crocodile tears over the soldier's death. Mr Major was furious over Mr Adams's reaction to the bombing on Monday when he said it should be seen as a warning to the Government.

At the Conservative Party conference Mr Major said: "For many months Sinn Féin have mouthed the words of peace. Warrant Officer James Bradwell was 43 with a wife and with children. Mr Adams. He joined the Army prepared to lose his life defending the British nation. Soldiers do. But he was murdered in cold blood in the United Kingdom."

"I sent him there Mr Adams, so spare me any crocodile tears. Don't tell me this has nothing to do with you. I don't believe you Mr Adams."

To loud applause Mr Major added: "I hope his family can find tranquillity and peace. And I would just like to say to James Bradwell — well done for all you've done for our peace and security. It was in the best and most honourable tradition of the British Army."

Last night Warrant Officer Bradwell's widow, Pam, was at their married quarters inside Thiepval barracks with her children, Philip, 14, Romana, 16, and Amanda, 23. They were at his bedside when he died. His father, Walter, 66, who lives at Springwell, near Sunderland, said: "I feel bitter that this should have happened when everyone had been hoping that peace had come. I was very proud of my son Jim. He really loved the Army."

Warrant Officer Bradwell, of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was close to the first car bomb when it went off and was then injured by the second 15 minutes later, after it exploded near the Army medical centre where he was being treated.

Mr Adams said last night that the Prime Minister should bear the "lion's share of blame". He added: "Personalised attacks are no substitute for real politics. It was the absence of real politics and a good faith engagement by the British Government in the peace process which led to its collapse."

Last four, page 2

Record sale for The Times

A record sale of 810,493 a day was achieved by The Times in September. Average daily sales were up by 45,876 on August and by 128,855 (19 per cent) compared with September, 1995, the highest percentage increase of any national newspaper.

Pound on a high

The pound jumped to its highest level against the mark for 20 months as the markets reacted with relief to promises of economic discipline from Kenneth Clarke. Page 23

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Women solicitors 'exploited'

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN solicitors are being discriminated against by an unfair pay scale within their profession which rewards male colleagues with much higher salaries.

Tony Girling, president of the Law Society, said that "shameful" figures, revealed in a survey released yesterday, meant that firms were "ex-

plotting" their female staff, especially at partnership level.

The figures come from the first full-scale survey of the profession carried out by Coopers & Lybrand and Scantel Ltd. Addressing the Law Society's annual conference in Manchester, Mr Girling asked: "How can anyone argue that equality of talent does not justify equality of treatment? Surely those women who have made it to be

partners or assistant solicitors are entitled to equal reward with their male colleagues?"

The figures, from the survey based on 579 sample firms in England and Wales, show that on the lower rungs, at the level of assistant or associate solicitor, women earned an average £21,000 compared to men's £24,000. Up the scale, women partners earned £36,000 a year compared with men's £51,000.



Simpson: "put gun to head during chase"

Friend tells of OJ suicide bid

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

O.J. SIMPSON put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger while being chased through Los Angeles by police, his former friend and adviser Robert Kardashian has said. Mr Kardashian said, adding: "After I hung up I realised he was telling the truth."

In last night's interview Mr Kardashian became the first member of the defence's so-

called "Dream Team" to state publicly he now believes Mr Simpson was probably guilty.

Mr Kardashian, a friend of Mr Simpson's for 25 years, played a murky role in last year's murder trial, refusing to answer questions although he was seen on television removing a garment bag from the Simpson mansion on the day after the murders and was suspected of helping to destroy incriminating evidence.

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Part one of our series is in *The Directory*, plus Hattie Ellis's after work cookery, Fiona Beckett's food news and Jane Owen's chocolate column

● What's on and where this weekend

Plus: Our going out guide with a new listing of weekend activities from wine tasting to white-water rafting

● Paul Heiney's new column

Starting today in *Weekend*, Paul Heiney invites you to join *The Times* Countryside Campaign

THE 8-SECTION TIMES ON SATURDAY FOR ONLY 50p

Noises off enliven a prosaic performance



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

It often happens on meticulously controlled occasions. The best part of John Major's speech yesterday at Bournemouth was the unintended bit. Halfway through a workmanlike but often pedestrian speech, as the Prime Minister explained his hopes for education, a baby began whimpering. Everybody laughed. Mr Major looked up from his text. "What I'm talking about is that child's future." Everybody cheered.

Had this been a Labour conference, we would suspect the baby had been hired. Peter Mandelson ready to stick a pin into it at the desired moment; but no, this baby was unscripted.

Tabloid newspapers wanted that baby. They tracked the source of whimpers and tried for exclusive rights of access. Still, for the few seconds while the child's intervention remained a real rather than a media event, the interlude was touching. It provided welcome relief during a flat performance. Mr Major never sounds less than sincere but too often seems unable to lift his voice from the workaday register to which it naturally tends. Only rarely—as during a moving passage on Northern Ireland, does his delivery reflect any passion he may feel. When he tries too consciously to inject *brío* into the performance he sounds like Billy Goat Gruff reading a bedtime story aloud to the

kids, trying to liven up the dramatic bits with funny voices.

None of this made the least difference to his immediate audience of Tory representatives. They were determined to love it. They did. Mr Major has been viewed this week at Bournemouth with something like adoration by the rank and file, and had Major chanted *Baa Baa Black Sheep* for 50 minutes, his Tory flock would still have applauded wildly and pronounced the speech a splendid demonstration of the difference between their own plain-speaking leader and the hollow theatricality of the Blairite alternative.

The conference had been expertly warmed up. Before the triumphant entrance of John and Norma came a financial appeal. "We have to raise money, and this is where you come in," announced Lord (Cecil) Parkinson, reminding us what an old sentimentalist he is, and of the role of ordinary members of the Conservative Party. The Cabinet sashayed on, introduced in the

manner of a *Come on Down* (in the case of a few of them, *Waddle on Down*) TV show.

Kenneth Clarke bounced in and then bounced off in the wrong direction like an over-eager puppy. After the speech, he sloped off, before the singing was over. You can argue as to whether the Chancellor was bored, had discovered that he had double-booked for another engagement, or needed a pee. All are possible.

The big guns got the expected cheers. William Hague, Welsh Secretary, got the unexpected cheer. The difference between expected cheers and unexpected ones, the difference between polite and genuine applause, is found in tiny hesitations, small noises of

excitement and the faces of conference-goers. You have to be there, for these are often the portents of things to come. In this art, or science, lies the reason that it remains — however marginally — worthwhile to be at the conference.

But I must report to you the experience of a friend with no conference pass, outside the heavily guarded compound, where a huge outdoor screen had been erected to relay the conference proceedings to a waiting public. He watched Major's speech on this screen — phrases which must have been argued over for weeks by Downing Street aides boomed out along the Dorset cliffs. Two other people were watching. One was a tramp.

Major's Bill aims to clear weapons off Ulster streets

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR yesterday announced legislation aimed at leading to the surrender of terrorist weapons in Northern Ireland. To Tory cheers at the party conference in Bournemouth, the Prime Minister said: "I want those weapons off the street."

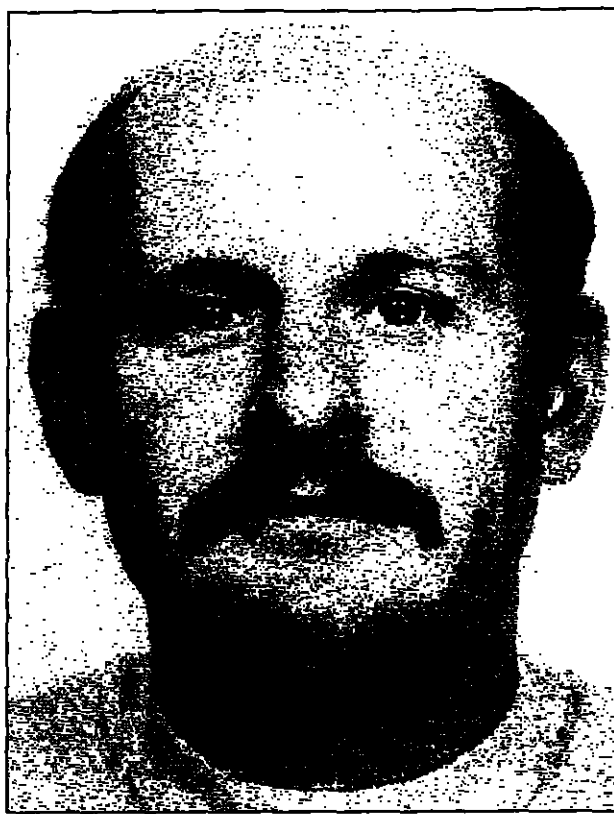
The proposals will be included in the Queen's Speech this month and ministers will then introduce a Bill to pave the way for an amnesty to cut the stockpile of firearms, ammunition and bomb-making equipment. Mr Major also addressed growing criticism over government accountability in the Province, spelling out plans to give Northern Ireland politicians a greater say in legislation and greater access to ministers.

The firearms legislation will specify the ways in which terrorists can surrender their weapons. The main options will be direct handover to authorities; handover to an independent third party; and "do-it-yourself" decommissioning, with weapons retained by terrorists but a third

party verifying they are decommissioned. Terrorists will be free from prosecution for possessing weapons, but there will be no amnesty for their criminal use.

Although the legislation has been planned since the beginning of the year, Mr Major's announcement reflects growing impatience among Ulster Unionists over the delay in bringing forward moves leading to decommissioning. Northern Ireland politicians had pressed for new laws to be introduced alongside legislation passed to allow elections to the Northern Ireland talks.

A start to decommissioning can only be made with the agreement of parties involved in the talks. With Sinn Féin still excluded and fears growing over the loyalist ceasefire, government sources admit that there is a long way to go before that agreement is reached. However, Mr Major insisted, there could be "no hiding place for those arms, missiles and explosives" and that decommissioning had to run parallel to the talks pro-



James Bradwell, who was badly burnt at Lisburn

cess. Unionists say they will not agree to any proposals to start decommissioning after the talks.

Mr Major also said he wanted to make government in Northern Ireland more accountable and announced plans to amend the structure of the political system to allow for greater scrutiny of ministerial decisions. The Government announced plans earlier this year to give the Scottish and Welsh Grand Committees of MPs meeting on home ground, power to question Cabinet ministers, and Mr

Major confirmed that he wanted to extend this to Northern Ireland.

Under the plans, which are to be the subject of consultation with the 17 Northern Ireland MPs, the Grand Committee could also have power to take evidence on draft legislation. "MPs from there should be able to question the ministers and scrutinise government policies directly in the Grand Committee meeting, sometimes in Northern Ireland."

Major's speech, page 10

Soldier who died from IRA bomb was on last tour

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND PAUL WILKINSON

WARRANT OFFICER James Bradwell, who died yesterday from wounds sustained in the IRA attack at Lisburn, was on his first tour of Northern Ireland.

Although he had been in the Army for 19 years and had served in Germany, Canada and Belize, he had never been posted to Ulster and had been there for only two months. It was also to be his last tour of duty before becoming a civilian in less than three years time. He had begun plans for a new life outside the Army.

WO Class 1 Bradwell's father, Walter, 66, who lives at Springwell, Tyne and Wear, said: "He had been looking forward to finishing in a few years and starting a new life back in his home area, and it is tragic that he should have been prevented from doing so in this way."

The last military death in Northern Ireland was of Thomas Withers, a part-time Royal Irish Regiment corporal, who was shot dead in his butcher's shop in Crossgar, Co Down, three weeks before the ceasefire was called at the end of August 1994.

The Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast disclosed that WO Bradwell, 43, of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, died from his injuries, which included burns to

60 per cent of his body and a serious head wound. John Major's condemnation of the IRA at the Conservative conference was echoed by John Bruton, the Taoiseach.

Gordon Gray, a chaplain on the Army base at Lisburn, said that WO Bradwell's recent arrival in the province "adds another particularly poignant note to the tragedy". He told Radio 4's *World at One*: "It is a big shock to soldiers and their families who have come here to a place which was knowing a certain level of peace and then suddenly to have this violence break out once again."

Army colleagues said WO Bradwell was a fiercely loyal and professional soldier. He joined the REME in 1977 and in his previous posting he was attached to The King's Royal Hussars at Münster, where he was in charge of maintaining the tank regiment's guns.

He and his wife Pam, 41, had already begun hunting for their first home away from married quarters. They were hoping to find a house in their native North-East to share with their two younger children, Romana, 16, and Philip, 14.

A man questioned about the Lisburn bombing was released without charge by the RUC last night.

Ten-year-old tearaways will be tagged to keep curfews

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRONIC tags will keep young tearaways under curfew and off the streets or football terraces, John Major promised yesterday.

The Prime Minister told the Conservative Party conference that tagging would be extended from adults to offenders aged between ten and 15. "It's worked. We think it will work on younger offenders as well — so we'll try that too."

He said that the courts would be able to order troublemakers to stay at home. If the offender could not go out on Friday and Saturday nights with his friends, nor

watch football on Saturday afternoons, then it was the offender's fault.

"Not mine, not yours, his," said Mr Major. "It's time the buck stopped where the responsibility lies. No one will miss the hooligan on the terrace."

Critics suggested that the tags would be counterproductive and give youths hero status on the streets. One expert estimated that as many as 47,000 young offenders might be eligible.

Tagging is still undergoing trials with adults in three areas of the country. The experiment has run into repeated problems and only 80 tags are in use. The cost of tagging an offender is put at £60,000 a year.

Tags were launched in 1986 in the United States, where about 40,000 offenders wear them. Thirty-three per cent are traffic offenders, 20 per cent are burglars or thieves and 15 per cent are drug offenders.

The tags were tested in Britain in 1989 on offenders on remand but experiments collapsed because of technical difficulties. A new set of trials, which began in 1995 in Norfolk, Greater Manchester and Reading, Berkshire, has also run into trouble.

One offender broke his curfew 26 times. Another man was beaten up because he was mistaken for a sex offender and another threw his tag into a pond, declaring it made him feel like a dog.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, estimated that there were 35,500 boys and 12,000 girls between ten and 14 convicted or cautioned each year. He said children might not understand what was happening while for others the tags would become a "badge of pride". Humiliating or shaming them would not work.

Barry Anderson, head of youth crime work at the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said it would be better to use supervision orders and work with families.

Cowdrey first to bat in plan to boost sport

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

STARS of sport are to tour schools and encourage the pupils to play more competitive games. John Major announced yesterday.

Let by Sir Colin Cowdrey, they are to act as "sporting ambassadors", visiting primary and secondary schools, from the new year, as part of the Prime Minister's "Raising the Game" campaign to restore sport to the heart of school life.

Sir Colin, the former England cricket captain, 63, who was in the audience at the Tory party conference, will head a committee of sports stars to co-ordinate the project

with teachers and officials from the Sports Council. Mr Major is to meet the committee soon, with Iain Sprouat, the Sports Minister.

The Department of National Heritage is drawing up a list of stars, initially from team games, some of whom have already been approached. Their names will be released once agreement has been reached. The scheme, partly funded by private sponsorship, is likely to begin on a pilot basis, concentrating on small clusters of schools in various areas.

Leading article, page 19

Times to pay libel damages

THE TIMES was ordered to pay £145,000 in libel damages by a Belfast jury yesterday to the firm of solicitors that defended Private Lee Clegg.

The newspaper did not deny that allegations made by supporters of the paratrooper at a press conference were defamatory to the firm of McCartan, Turkington, Breen. However, it claimed qualified privilege because a front-page article in the newspaper, which reported the allegations, was a fair and accurate report of a public

meeting. But Mr Justice Givan ruled at the High Court in Belfast that the conference was not a public meeting. This left the amount of damages as the only issue for the jury to decide after John Thompson, QC, for the newspaper, had apologised to the plaintiffs on behalf of Times Newspapers Ltd.

The firm defended Private Clegg at his original trial in Belfast in 1993 where he was convicted of the murder of Karen Reilly in West Belfast in 1990. The paratrooper had opened fire on Miss Reilly's car, which was being driven by a joyrider, after it had sped through a security check point.

He was freed on licence in July 1995 after a campaign led by a group of retired officers from the Parachute Regiment, which was launched at the conference in January 1995. The conference was called after the House of Lords confirmed the murder conviction.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP blames tablets for tumble

The Conservative MP Sir Nicholas Scott yesterday blamed the painkillers he is taking for a back injury for being found lying in the street while attending the party conference in Bournemouth. The 63-year-old MP for Chelsea said: "I had a very bad back injury and I've been taking painkillers. I think that explains part of the problem." He agreed it might have been the result of taking painkillers after a couple of drinks.

Prince's aide

The Prince of Wales has appointed Stephen Lamport as his new private secretary to succeed Richard Aylard, effectively dismissed last week. A former diplomat, he has been the Prince's deputy private secretary for three years. Simon Jenkins, p18

Birth case ends

Maureen Flynn discontinued her High Court action against Dr Grant Winstock and Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Health Authority over the doctor's failure to diagnose her pregnancy. A judgment was recorded in favour of the defence.

A dog's strife

A police force is testing body armour on its dogs to protect them from attack during riots and public disorder. Merseyside Police has issued two German Shepherd dogs with rubber-coated 8mm thick neoprene suits, costing £50 each, and boots.

Eclipse of Sun

The best solar eclipse in Britain since 1961 should be visible this afternoon, weather permitting. At 3.15pm about half the Sun will be covered. Astronomers gave a warning that the 2½ hour eclipse must not be viewed with the naked eye.

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فكرنا من الأصل

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

HOME NEWS 3

Accountant stole £240,000 from trusting Church

By Ruth Gledhill and Bill Frost

AN ACCOUNTANT who systematically plundered almost £240,000 from the Church of England to fund an extravagant lifestyle last night began a three-year jail sentence.

Dean Bailey was "a classic Walter Mitty character" who bought friends with expensive dinners and gifts, and whose charitable donations included sums to English National Opera and the Royal Opera House Trust. His salary was £19,000 a year.

Unmasked after a senior colleague became suspicious of his extravagant spending, Bailey, 34, pleaded guilty yesterday at Southwark Crown Court to 12 specimen counts of theft amounting to almost £200,000. He asked for 50 other offences to be considered which involved a further £188,378 donated by mostly poor parishes to the Diocese of London.

Bailey had seen flaws in the accounting system soon after he took a job six years ago at the diocesan headquarters in Westminster, working under his father-in-law, the Rev Ronald Vaughan.

For centuries the diocese conducted its financial affairs on the basis that people claiming to be Christians were worthy of trust. Clergy members' agreements and familial relationships set up bonds of loyalty that did as much as the law and any number of accountants to secure parish funds for posterity.

But with the rise of materialism and secularism in the 1980s and 1990s, it became clear that traditional and sometimes eccentric ways of running church finances were



Bailey: siphoned cash from parish accounts

not enough. Bailey had not targeted the main fund used to manage parish donations but siphoned off money from smaller accounts, such as those set up for bequests or property sales. Last night the Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, said: "I can reassure parishes that provisions are in place to prevent such an occurrence ever happening again."

Those provisions, and the uncovering of the fraud, are largely due to Chris Smith, an accountant and personnel manager with 22 years' experience in the City of London. He was appointed secretary of the Diocese in 1994 and his first step was to tighten up the "somewhat loose" accounting methods.

It was the checks and balances that Mr Smith introduced that finally, with the help of Richard Walker, a new accountant he had hired, uncovered Bailey's frauds. At first his convincing apologies and reassurances that discrepancies were nothing other

than simple mistakes forestalled further action. Mr Smith did not uncover hard evidence of fraud until he discovered and stopped a cheque for £5,000 made payable by Bailey to himself.

Martin Rutherford, for the prosecution, told the court: "After that his behaviour in the office changed. He started offering cricket tickets to his superior and asking to make the coffee." Bailey was confronted at a disciplinary hearing and the truth began to emerge.

The picture was of a man out of touch with reality. In just one example, over four years Bailey, of Bethnal Green, east London, gave £22,500 to English National Opera. He bought numerous opera and Test Match tickets. "There was also a two-week holiday to Jamaica," Mr Rutherford said.

Bailey became a member of Surrey Cricket Club and was a frequent visitor to Royal Ascot. On trips to the West End he regularly thrust £20 notes on beggars sleeping in doorways.

His wife Rosemary, who did not suspect him, gave birth to their first child, Hannah, three years ago. Jim Sturman, representing Bailey in court, said: "Now his marriage has broken down — divorce is inevitable. He has lost his wife and friends, those he treated to tickets at the opera."

Mr Smith, who is continuing to investigate where he can improve procedures, said: "My main concern is about parish trust. The relationship between the parishes and the diocese is very important. No system can be foolproof if someone is determined to get around things, but we are tightening up all the time."

Westwood vamps it up in seductive history class

FROM GRACE BRADBERRY IN PARIS

JERRY HALL played the vamp yesterday in Vivienne Westwood's outrageously witty show for Paris. There were shouts and whistles from photographers as Mrs Jagger strode down the catwalk in a high-waisted, pin-striped suit.

Westwood unveiled what amounted to a history of provocative dressing. There were 18th-century shepherdesses with their skirts rucked at the back, 1950s St Tropez girls in hot-pants, and even a French maid in a black satin dress with white lace apron.

The models, in haystack wigs that would have made Marie Antoinette weep, played it for all it was worth. Stella Tennant flitted in a check mini-dress with matching knickers and suspenders. Eminently wearable were 1940s hip-skirts, jersey cocktail dresses which draped at the back and front, and fitted suits with short tail-coats.

The least wearable but the most fabulous were the ball gowns. Kate Moss led the way in a violet strapless dress with spiralling ribbons and a huge taffeta flower at the front. Next came an astonishing kimono-style dress in multi-coloured patchwork. But even Miss Hall, a veteran of the catwalk, had difficulty walking in a purple satin ball dress with a huge train.



Jerry Hall models a ball gown in Vivienne Westwood's Paris collection yesterday

Prison for dentist who faked NHS call-out fees

By A Staff Reporter

A DENTIST who fiddled £20,000 from the health service by claiming bogus emergency call-out fees was jailed for 12 months yesterday.

Ha Wai Edmund Chan, 41, who ran a practice in Rushden, Northamptonshire, pretended that treatment given during normal hours was done on Sundays to claim fees worth about £40 a time. His total income was more than £200,000. Northampton Crown Court was told.

Chan, a member of his local dental committee and an adjudicator at hearings for other dentists accused of malpractice, persuaded patients to sign blank treatment forms and got his staff to fill in dates later. When investigators became suspicious he got staff to help him to fake dental record cards. The money was routinely paid into his bank account.

Michael Joyce, for the prosecution, said investigators sent questionnaires to 38 of Chan's patients and the "systematic defrauding of NHS funds" was revealed. Chan admitted 13 counts of false accounting, one of forgery and one of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

The court was told that, in addition to the £20,000 a year he received from his own NHS work, he earned another £150,000 a year after taking a 50 per cent share of his associates' earnings at the practice. He also had a healthy private practice and outside business interests.

Woman, 87, raped during five-hour attack in home

By Paul Wilkinson

POLICE hope a public outcry will help them to find a man who raped an 87-year-old spinster while holding her captive in her home for most of the night.

It was almost seven hours after her attacker fled under cover of darkness before the woman, 5ft tall and weighing 6st, was able to seek help from a neighbour. Police later praised her resolution after being left cut, bruised and highly distressed.

Detective Inspector Jim Campbell, who is leading the investigation, said: "My officers have been left shocked at the sheer depravity and maliciousness of this attack on such an elderly and frail lady."

"We hope the local community will also be shocked at this vicious crime and help us all they can."

The attack began about 10pm on Wednesday when the woman answered a knock at the back door of her bungalow in the Silksworth area of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear. The man spoke to her briefly before forcing his way inside. During the next five hours he raped her, subjected her to another serious sexual assault and physically attacked her.

Mr Campbell said: "She has been astonishingly brave, strong and resilient. Interviewing her is a delicate and lengthy process. The inquiry is moving along at her pace. We need to catch this man but our

first concern is for her. She feels absolutely awful. She is particularly frail. She has recently been ill with shingles and hasn't been out of the house in six weeks."

"She could be anyone's grandmother. She is quite a naive woman who was born when her parents were particularly elderly and she looked after them until their death."

"She has never had any work and lived in the same area the whole of her life. Although she has no blood relatives she has a number of very close friends."

The woman is well-known and liked in Silksworth. She was cared for after the attack by friends from the local church where she worshipped.

The rapist is described as aged between 18 and 30, at least 5ft 4in tall, with short hair and a local accent. Detectives were checking files on cases elsewhere, and looking at offender profiles.

Mr Campbell said: "It is within the realms of possibility that this man will attack again and I want him taken out of circulation."

A woman who lives opposite said: "I sat at home this morning and wept because I felt so guilty and ashamed that I hadn't been able to do anything. This happened yards from my door and I knew nothing about it."

Later the victim was admitted to hospital for observation.

Policeman's 'persecuted' son is freed from prison

By A Staff Reporter

A POLICE chief's son who killed a 77-year-old woman when speeding across traffic lights was freed from jail yesterday after serving four months of an 18-month sentence.

Stuart Leivers, 23, tried to kill himself when he was jailed, the Court of Appeal was told. He was a target of abuse from fellow inmates at The Wolds prison because of his father, a chief inspector, and his mother, who is head of security at Doncaster prison. Leivers, from Mansfield in Nottinghamshire, was jailed, disqualified from driving for three years and ordered to re-take his test by Nottingham Crown Court on June 13. He had admitted causing death by dangerous driving in November last year.

He had accelerated to 48mph in his Ford Escort RS Turbo, overtaking the car in front in his attempt to catch a green traffic light. The lights changed as he sped across and he collided with the victim.

Justin Rouse, for Leivers, argued for a cut in the sentence because alcohol, drugs and racing played no part in the offence and the speed was not vastly excessive.

Mr Justice Rouse, sitting with Lord Justice Hutchison and Judge van der Werf, announced the sentence would be cut to eight months, allowing Leivers to be freed this weekend.

Rage against age is top poem

By Dalva Alberg

AN ODE to growing old disgracefully. Jenny Joseph's *Warning*, has emerged as the nation's favourite postwar poem.

In a poll organised by BBC Education for National Poetry Day, she beat Stevie Smith's *Not Waving But Drowning*, Dylan Thomas's *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night* and Philip Larkin's *This Be The Verse*.

Daisy Goodwin, a BBC producer, said: "This might seem a surprising choice of winner, as Jenny Joseph isn't perhaps such a well-known name as some other modern poets. But it is a delightful, engaging poem which speaks to everyone who is facing the prospect of growing older with a sinking heart."

The poll allowed votes for rock lyrics but even John Lennon could only make it to No. 32. Ms Goodwin said: "If

we had been looking for the nation's favourite poets rather than poems, the winners would have been Larkin, Thomas and John Betjeman."

Joseph, who was born in 1932 in Birmingham, read English at Oxford and has worked as a reporter, publisher and lecturer. Her poetry volumes, which include *Rose in the Afternoon*, have won awards; she is also the author of six children's books.

Warning by Jenny Joseph
When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat that doesn't go and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer
gloves
And satin sandals and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm
bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only eat bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things
in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and
surprised
When suddenly I am old and start to wear purple.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The strange death of Tory England



It is essentially Tory ideas — from the primacy of the market in economics, to the need to reassert traditional values in education and law and order — that now dominate the political agenda. So how can it be that it is the Tories, rather than their opponents, who are facing political annihilation...?

Robert Harris (pictured), News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Abortion 'increases chances of breast cancer by a third'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN who have an abortion increase by a third their risk of developing breast cancer, researchers reported yesterday.

The finding suggests that thousands of cases of breast cancer each year can be attributed to the effects of abortion. The number will rise sharply into the next century as the first group of women who had abortions after they were legalised in the 1970s age and the risk of cancer rises.

Scientists at the City University, New York, who analysed results from 23 studies of breast cancer said the link with abortion had been noted since the 1950s but had been played down. They cite recent reviews of breast cancer which have appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *The Lancet* but which have failed to mention abortion among risk factors.

The American researchers led by Joel Brind, Professor of Endocrinology, say abortion

accounts for 5,000 cases of breast cancer in the US each year, which will rise to 25,000 by the middle of the next century. Abortion is the commonest non-emergency operation performed in America with 800,000 first-time cases a year.

British experts have treated the findings with caution. Ann Furedi, director of the Birth Control Trust, denied that the risks had been played down and that they had to be seen in the context of other known risks for breast cancer. "If you wait until 35 for a first pregnancy it doubles your risk of breast cancer, and if you bottle feed instead of breast feed your baby the risk is increased by a fifth," she said.

The American authors say that the introduction of legalised abortion may be one factor behind the rising incidence of breast cancer in the past 25 years. The increased risk, they say, is seen in studies from around the

world, in populations with the widest differences in ethnic, diet, socio-economic and life-style factors.

Professor Brind, who has studied the link between sex hormones and disease for 25 years, said women who had a miscarriage did not suffer the same risk because it did not result in high levels of oestrogen. "Excess exposure to oestrogen is involved in most known breast cancer risk factors, but in most pregnancies that end in miscarriage, oestrogen levels never get off the ground, so breast cancer risk is not increased," he said.

The authors say that abortion is often presented as a much safer procedure than live birth, which has a death rate 12 times higher. However, given the high incidence of breast cancer, which affects one woman in twelve in America and one in eight in the UK, any increase in breast cancer risk would make abortion far more risky than live birth.



Bacon's Seated Figure (Red Cardinal): "frustration, impotence and agony"

NEWS IN BRIEF

£8m heroin found on fans' bus

Heroin worth £8 million has been found in a coach that took Polish football supporters to Wembley for the international match against England on Wednesday.

The discovery was made when Customs officers searched the vehicle as it arrived at Dover for the return journey. It is believed that the 100 kilograms of heroin were brought over in the hope of finding a buyer. The 12 fans on board, including the driver of the coach, which left Cracow on Tuesday, were arrested.

Labour MP dies

Terry Patchett, the Labour MP for Barnsley East, has died after a long battle with cancer. He was 56. Labour is likely to hold an early by-election and will almost certainly retain the seat. Mr Patchett's majority was 24,777.

Anti-drugs drive

An Irish government task-force set up after the investigative journalist Veronica Guerin was murdered is to spend £14 million to combat heroin addiction in Dublin and Cork. Police believe her murder was ordered by a drug baron.

Needle in pork

Pamela Yeomans, of Fye Bridge, Derbyshire, found a 3in hypodermic needle in a joint of pork she and her children were about to eat. Local health officials, who are examining the meat, believe it could have been a vet's needle.

Director crushed

A company director has been killed by a heavy iron mould that fell on him from a lifting machine at his factory. Michael Lewis, 52, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, was a co-director of Pace Mould Ltd, in High Wycombe.

Kerrs divorce

The actress Patsy Kensit and her rock star husband Jim Kerr were granted a quickie divorce in the High Court. Kerr, 36, will pay 28-year-old Kensit £2,500 a month for care of their son James and £350 a week for a nanny.

Passing comment

In a new national campaign for cleaner public lavatories, establishments such as pubs and restaurants will display stickers inviting customers to phone a freephone number and comment on the state of the lavatories.

Medical curios

The world's largest collection of gallstones is being put on display at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital as part of an exhibition of old medical specimens and equipment.

'Lost' Bacon painting expected to fetch £1.5m

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PAINTING by Francis Bacon not seen in public for 35 years and known to scholars only from a black and white photograph is expected to fetch £1.5 million at auction.

Seated Figure (Red Cardinal), which dates from 1960, is one of 20 images from Bacon's *Papal* series. Most are in museums. After being exhibited in 1961, it was purchased by an American collector and on his death was sold in the 1970s to an anonymous European. The painting's whereabouts remained unknown until its appearance at Christie's.

The image was inspired by Velázquez's *Portrait of Pope Innocent X* in Rome. Bacon contorted the image into a threatening, disfigured character that reflected the pain and bleakness of human existence. Brett Gorvy, director of contemporary art at Christie's, said: "The pope's face is acid-burned and purple-bruised and has the texture of rotting flesh. Frustration, impotence and agony are all registered."

The picture will be shown in Antwerp, Zurich, Paris and New York before being auctioned in London on December 4.

Bacon's meaning, page 18



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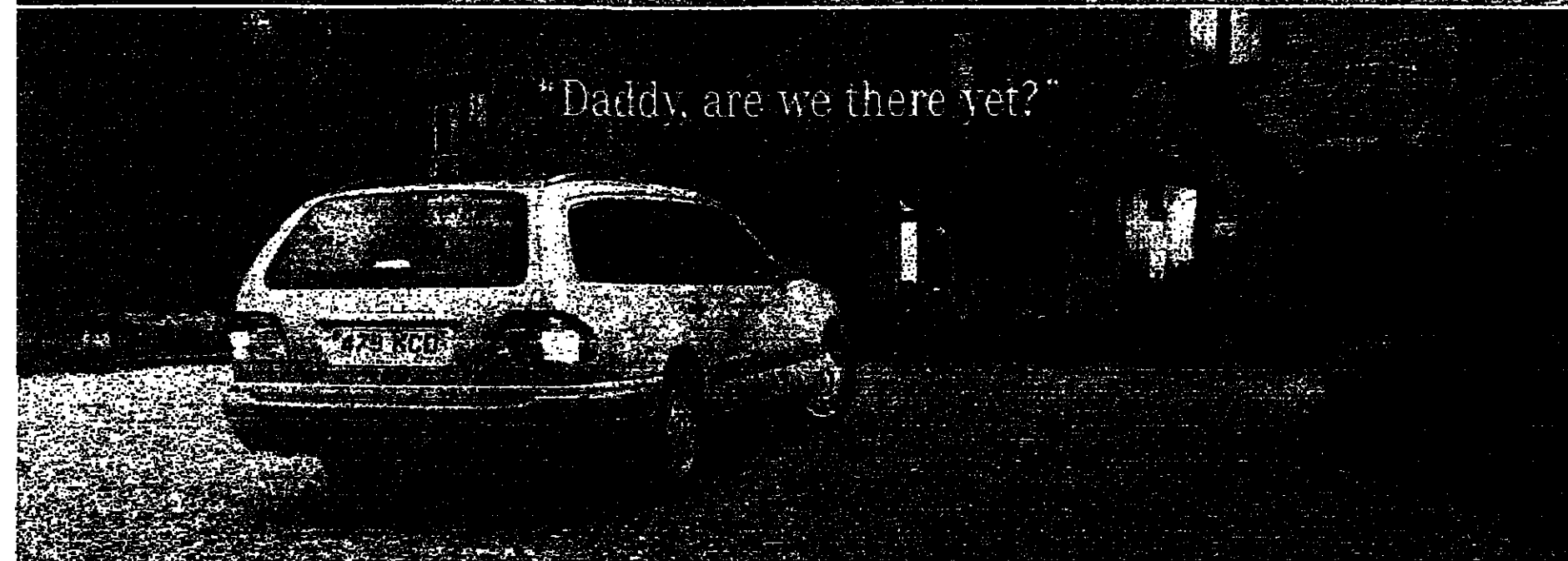
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Poverty study gives Prue Leith a taste of reality

By DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

PRUE LEITH, the millionaire caterer, has become a champion of the dispossessed after visiting council estates to talk to the poor about their lives.

The former Business Woman of the Year lost her faith in "trickle-down" economics while touring Tesco with a single mother who has to raise a five-year-old son on £80 a week. Ms Leith, undertaking the task as a member of the Channel 4 Poverty Commission, was shattered as she watched Annie Oliver reject a 68p carton of fruit juice because it was too expensive.

The Cordon Bleu cook, who once sat on the board of Safeway and is vice-chairwoman of Women in Finance and Banking, was unaware of the price of a pint of milk, according to the makers of *The Great, the Good and the Dispossessed*, to be shown on Channel 4 tonight.

"She was amazed at the way people calculate everything to the last penny. When she goes shopping she throws things in," said Miss Oliver, 27, who lives with her son Alex in a council maisonette in Bristol.

"She had some odd ideas. She said it was very sad that the homeless people used the local park as a toilet and wondered whether we should build them toilets. I said no, we should build them homes."

Ms Leith, 56, has a £1 million farm in the Cotswolds, and a £250,000 flat in west London. As a member of the Channel 4 commission, which spent four months investigating the problems of the poor, she now advocates higher taxes for the rich, a massive programme of public works to solve unemployment, and the

"I didn't realise the money doesn't get to the poorest"



Prue Leith, who found middle-class ideas didn't work

building of more council houses.

She said: "I've always had this very straight economic — capitalist if you like — argument that what we need is a vibrant, healthy economy and money will flow right through the system and make poor people richer. What I didn't realise was how the money doesn't get to the very poorest,

even if the average wage goes up."

At the supermarket, she learnt the "survival strategies" of the poor. "I kept saying things to her [Miss Oliver] as a middle-class woman, very bossy, going round the supermarket thinking I knew everything."

She told Miss Oliver to buy a bumper pack of apples

instead of one per day, but the mother explained that her son would eat too many and they would be left with no apples and no money. Ms Leith chided Miss Oliver for buying Jaffa cakes, which are full of sugar and fat, and suggested raw carrots would be healthier. Miss Oliver explained that she wanted her son to have something sweet to finish every meal and the cakes would last a week.

Ms Leith has lost patience with those who argue that because people on council estates have modern conveniences, satellite dishes and designer sports shoes, nobody in Britain is poor. "Only the rich can afford to go without microwave ovens," she says. "They are the cheapest way to heat a potato. The cheapest way to keep the children quiet is to put them in front of the television."

"It is very easy for middle-class people like me to say to my children, 'Tough, you have to have Marks & Spencer trainers'. When children have so little this sort of label badge, whether it is Reebok or whatever, assumes much more importance to them."

The Channel 4 commissioners say that people are poor if they are "isolated from engaging in the normal activities of society". They decided that the European definition of poverty — anyone living below half average wages — was too narrow, although that already classifies 14 million Britons as poor.

Ms Leith said the salaries of "fat cat" directors, who can earn 300 times as much as their lowliest workers, were obscene. In her own catering business, which she has sold, the managing director was paid only three times as much as the kitchen porter.

Panel urges salary limit on 'fat cats'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A MAXIMUM wage should be imposed on "fat cat" company executives to close the growing gap between rich and poor, according to the Channel 4 Poverty Commission, which was created to try to solve the problem of the poor in Britain.

The commission members are calling on captains of industry to set a ceiling on their salaries of 25 times that of their worst-paid workers. In a firm that pays a cleaner £3 an hour, the maximum boardroom salary would be about £140,000 a year. Many leading directors now get close to £700,000.

The idea of capping top salaries has been successfully pioneered by the John Lewis Partnership. The commissioners — the chairman Professor Peter Townsend, a social policy expert; Prue Leith; Sir Stephen Tumim, the former Chief Inspector of

Prisons; and Jatinder Verma, the Asian arts entrepreneur — suggest a minimum wage of £4 an hour to be accepted voluntarily by employers.

They recommend that a standing, non-partisan Commission on Poverty should be established by the Government to monitor the problem. Every deprived area in the country should have its own further education college to train people in skills for which there is a demand in the local jobs market.

The commission accepts there is a close connection between poverty and crime and calls for the alleviation of poverty among prisoners' families. It also wants cheap public transport.

Professor Townsend, said that neither of the main political parties has poverty on its agenda. "Redistribution and taxation is unpalatable to Labour," he said.



Miss Oliver and Ms Leith shopped together at Tesco

Protected status is claimed by crofters

By A STAFF REPORTER

SCOTTISH crofters are appealing to the Government for official recognition as indigenous people in a bid to protect their way of life. They say that under United Nations rules their case is similar to that of Indian tribes and the Maoris.

Fraser MacLeod, director of the Scottish Crofters' Union, said recognition was vital to the development of the Highlands and would prevent problems that crofting communities suffered under absentee landlords.

He added: "We have had several experts looking at this proposal and they agree that under the UN international treaties and legislation we could be recognised as indigenous people. This would give us greater control over our future and safeguard the crofting way of life and the Gaelic language."

The crofters plan to attend the annual UN conference on indigenous people in Geneva next July to put forward their case. Mr MacLeod said that official recognition would also allow crofters the right to self-government at local level and give them rights over land and resources.

"We have unique legislation in crofting and we now want the Government to enter the debate as to how this can be developed to the benefit of everyone in the Highlands."

He claimed that recognition would help in cases such as the campaign by residents of Eigg in the Inner Hebrides to buy the island and avert problems with an absentee landlord.

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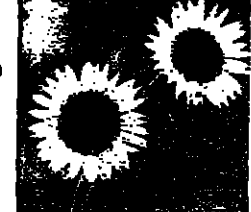
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TSB	1.75%

*Source: The Research Department Ltd. All financial information is checked for accuracy on a weekly basis.

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"I do not favour selection.
I fully support Labour's plans,
including abolishing the
Assisted Places Scheme."

"It is right to make the
proper choice for your child."

We agree with the Harriet Harman on the right.

New Labour can't have it both ways. Freedom of choice can't be right for Harriet Harman's child and wrong for everyone else's.

We applaud Ms. Harman because, like every other right-thinking parent, she has chosen to put the education of her child before political dogma.

This has proved to be a very courageous thing to do given the strength of opinion in her Party against parents who send their children to schools of their choice - whether they happen to be state or independent.

At New Labour's recent conference Tony Blair said he wants every child to be educated at a State School.

There's nothing independent schools would like more than to keep politics out of education.

Unfortunately some politicians just won't leave us alone. So independent Schools have no alternative but to speak out, using hard-earned money raised by parents.

First, Labour said they were going to abolish independent schools altogether.

But then they discovered that their supporters didn't actually want independent schools abolished.

So instead of a head-on confrontation, they switched to a new plan. Undermine the schools instead.

New Labour's current policy threatens the Charitable Status

of independent schools. The result? To force up school fees so fewer parents could afford them. This, of course, would make independent schools more exclusive - and New Labour would criticise that.

Both the Liberal Democrats and New Labour have pledged to abolish The Assisted Places Scheme.

The Scheme was set up to achieve precisely what New Labour and the Liberal Democrats say they want - greater integration of independent schools.

The Assisted Places Scheme will enable almost 40,000 children from low income families to attend about 450 independent schools in 1996/7. More than 40% of places are FREE. Children as young as five years old can benefit.

APS pupils at independent schools achieve 1-3 grades higher at 'A' Level than pupils of similar ability at other schools. (Source: Research Study, London School of Economics, published July 1996.)

Last Summer over 94% of APS pupils achieved GCSE grades A-C. And 94% achieved 'A' Level Grades A-E. 51% of APS A-level entrants got A or B Grades.

Successive MORI polls show that most parents would send their children to independent schools if they could.

And, by the way, over 50% of parents who have chosen to send their children to independent schools were not educated at independent schools themselves.

We are not asking you to change your vote.

We're asking you to help us make New Labour and the Lib Dems reconsider their policies on independent schools.

Please write to us - a very short letter will be fine - saying you want your MP or candidate to think again about the points below. We will note and pass on your views.

1. Education has been established in law as a 'Charitable Purpose' since at least 1601. Don't let New Labour abolish Charitable Status for independent schools.

2. The Assisted Places Scheme opens the chance of independent education to far more parents. Don't let New Labour or the Lib Dems take this away.

3. Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights enshrine the right of every parent to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children. Don't let New Labour or the Lib Dems threaten this basic freedom.

Would you like your child or grandchild to have the chance of an Assisted Place at an independent school?

For free advice telephone 0171-630 8793/4 or write to Parental Choice Matters, Friends of Independent Schools, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG. And ask for our fact pack on the political threats to parental choice.

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Major tells Blair that his troops will fight heart and soul to secure a fifth Tory victory

'Sorry Tony, the Prime Minister's job is taken'

This is an edited extract from John Major's speech to the Tory party conference yesterday.

WE'VE had a good week. It's been the week the Tory family came together — to renew the family contract with the British nation.

The well-being of our country is more important than any political party. And the well-being of the Conservative Party is more important than any member of it. So the lesson is clear. Everyone in the party should work — and if I know them, will work — heart and soul, irrespective of personal interests, to secure the re-election of a Conservative government.

□ **ENTERPRISE:** When I became Prime Minister, I set out to make Britain a low-inflation economy. I knew what a fight it would be. But we went for it. We took the flak. No weakening. Heads down. We did what we always do when we're challenged: we came out fighting. And, as a result, we've had the longest run of low inflation this

not a socialist anymore. Now, can I be Prime Minister, please?

Sorry, Tony. Job's taken. And anyway, it's too big a task for your first real job.

□ **BELIEFS:** I came into politics to open doors, not shut them. They were opened for me. I was born in the war. My father was 66. My mother... was surprised.

We were like millions of others. Not well off, but comfortable, until financially the roof fell in. Nothing special about that. But for us, it changed our life. My mother coped — as women do. I left school at 16, because an extra £5 a week mattered. I learnt something from that experience. In the game of life, we Tories should even up the rules. Give people opportunity and choice, to open up an avenue of hope in their lives. And by "people" I don't mean "some people". I mean everyone. Opportunity for all. It's in the bloodstream of our party.

□ **EDUCATION:** There are millions of children in our country. Every one an original: different skills, different talents, different needs. So our task is to provide a rich choice of schools and colleges, giving the best to every child and demanding the best of every child. We're improving that choice every year. And we intend to widen it further. So, I make this promise: if parents want more grant-maintained schools, they shall have them. More specialist schools — we'll provide them. More selection — they'll have it. Why should government say "no" if parents think it's right for their children?

And if parents want grammar schools in every town — so do I, and they shall have them. We grammar school boys — and girls — believe in choice for parents. That means parents shouldn't face a choice between one bad school and another. What kind of choice is that? It's the kind of choice you get in Islington — unless you move out of the borough. We're going to change that. That's why this autumn, we'll turn today's promises into tomorrow's reality with a flagship Education Bill.

I will announce their conclusions by Christmas, and I intend that the scheme will be running in schools in the coming academic year. Colin scored nearly 8,000 runs for England. Now he's going to inspire nearly 8 million boys and girls who might want to play, compete and represent their country. I want them to enjoy sport. And they'll enjoy it more if they play to win. Take it from me — winning is fun.

□ **THE FAMILY:** More than ever before, we've given families more independence and more freedom to



John Major embracing the singer Patti Boulaye during a conference walkabout with his wife Norma after his speech yesterday

choose. As a result, millions have become owners of homes, savings, shares and pensions. But not enough yet. In our next 5 years, we will seek new opportunities: helping more people save and build security for retirement; helping people who need care keep more of those savings. We're aiming for the least possible tax to give the greatest possible choice. As we can afford it, we'll move to a 20p basic rate for all. That's our priority.

We know that cutting taxes isn't government giving anything back to people. It's the government taking away less of people's own money. That's why low taxes are right. So, to encourage wealth creation for the future, we'll reduce then abolish capital gains tax.

Many people in our country build up savings long after they've enough for their own needs. One reason they do that is to pass on the fruits of their life's work to their children and grandchildren. This is a powerful, human emotion. So, over time, our next target is to remove inheritance tax. Building wealth for the many, not the few.

□ **WELFARE:** People treasure in-

dependence. Their own independence. The State is the last option, not the first. The more independence, the less reliance. The less reliance, the more we can help those in real need. But as we accept responsibility, so much people themselves. Dependency must be about needs not culture.

I can't stand the welfare cheats. They deprive those in real need. Our task is to build a welfare system for the 21st century. A system for a self-help society — not a help-yourself society. And one way of building independence is to get more people back to work. We're now doing that on a scale that's the envy of Europe — partly because we refuse to make political gestures that cost jobs. That's why I say "no" to the minimum wage and "no" to the social chapter.

But government can help the unemployed. We don't want to pay people to stay on the dole. We do want to help them get back into work. So first we're going to help those who've been out of work the longest. They're the people for whom the barriers to opportunity are highest. First we give them help

to find a job and if that doesn't succeed, they'll be offered work on a community project. For many it's just the motivation they need. But it also shows up those who don't want to work. I think that's right.

□ **HEALTH:** Our NHS is unique. In this country, when you're ill, we take your temperature. In other

to the Health Service. More people see their doctor than anyone else. This was a fundholding practice — part of our reforms — and, in its own small way, an example of the quiet revolution of the NHS. Waiting lists had been slashed. People no longer had to trek to the district hospital. More services were available. More money spent on patients, not paperwork. Now, this practice is one of the very best. But that excellent service could be the future everywhere.

And this autumn, Stephen Dorrell will introduce a Bill to do just that — giving family doctors greater freedom to develop local services in their surgeries — creating a new generation of cottage hospitals all over Britain.

And that's only half of it. In the autumn, Stephen will set out our ambitious plans to build the National Health Service for the 21st Century. Before the end of this year, we'll unveil new plans to help mentally ill people followed by new plans to reform social care for children, disabled people and the elderly. For over 17 years, through thick and thin, we Conservatives

have found extra money for the NHS. So today, I give you a Health Service guarantee. Our manifesto will pledge that the NHS will get more — over and above inflation — year, on year, on year, on year, on year through five years of the next Conservative Government.

□ **EUROPE:** The sharpest element of the European debate is the possibility of a single currency. We know that where Britain's national interest is at stake Britain's national voice must be heard. Europe is changing. In a few years, Europe will have 26 or 27 members. They'll be wildly different. Many of them will never match the economic performance of the larger nations. So, how do we cope with this?

We believe Europe must become more flexible and responsive. That the only realistic future is as a partnership of nations, not a United States of Europe. But some of our partners do see the future of Europe as ever closer political as well as economic integration. We don't believe this is practical. Nor, to be frank, desirable. It's not the Europe we joined and it's not a Europe we can accept.

□ **BRITAIN:** A buccannering spirit, gritty resolve, give and take, a conviction that everyone is entitled to the same dignity, courtesy, and esteem because of what they are, not who they are. These are some of the values we share. That's what makes us a nation. Down the centuries, they have moulded our democracy, the Union, Parliament, our voting system.

It's naive to think that radical change would be easy or risk-free. And it's revealing to look at Labour's plans. Their priority would be to gerrymander the British constitution. They're avid for more parliaments, more assemblies. Their policy is in chaos. On Scottish referenda, they chafe sides more often than a windscreen wiper. What a message: vote Labour — for more politicians, more bureaucrats, more taxes, more regulations, more tampering, more meddling, more authoritarianism. If this is the new gospel, give me the old religion. In less than 1,000 days, Labour would vandalise nearly 1,000 years of British history.

I didn't come from two rooms in Brixton to 10 Downing Street not to go out and fight with every fibre of my being for what I believe in. So at the election where will I be? I'll be out in the towns and streets. Where you are. I'll be the one talking to the people in the middle of the crowd. So come and join me. And I promise you — we'll win.

Leading article, page 19

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Campaign strategists see political capital in US ploy of bringing parents onto the platform

Major and Blair make the most from their family misfortunes

By Alice Thomson



Tom Major-Ball: his struggles make good speech material

POLITICIANS have always wanted to tell the voters about themselves. But now they insist on filling the public in on their parents, cousins, childhood ailments and school reports.

John Major's annual and emotional recollections of his humble Brixton origins have become a conference highlight and this year Tony Blair joined in with his own verbal family album. Both have borrowed the idea from Bill Clinton and other US politicians, who have long understood that poignant childhood anecdotes humanise distant political figures and provide a warm and reassuring backdrop for policy programmes.

Former British party leaders would be horrified at the shameless way that politicians are bringing their parents onto the platform. But this year Mr Major's origins are even more important to his party. They will fight the election under an "Opportunity For All Banner". The Prime Minister's long march from Coldharbour Lane to 10 Downing Street provides their most graphic illustration of this political message.

Equally Mr Blair had to prove that there was more to his personality than

just a pair of demon eyes. His description to 1,200 delegates in Blackpool of the impact that his father's stroke had had upon his childhood left some in tears.

Tory aides are extremely proud of the new tactic and believe that Mr Major has taken it to an art form. When he told the conference last year about how his father was ridiculed for selling gnomes, the audience was riveted. He explained how proud he was of Mr Terry-Ball for his entrepreneurial skills even if he had once been a trapeze artist. He talks about leaving school at 16 and having failed to make the grade as a London bus driver. He even went back to his old home for a party political broadcast.

Aides on both sides have been impressed by the way that President Clinton "Oprah Winfrey" the crowds by confessing to the traumas of having an alcoholic stepfather and drug-addict brother and by the way he made his Southern mother, Virginia Kelley, into a heroine for the masses by talking about her recipes for grits and her struggles as a single parent. Polling by the Democrats shows that these stories go a long way in countering accusations of sleaze.

Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, has gone one better with his

war stories about how he got his withered arm and lost a kidney. They both make it clear that far from being bought up in Kennedyesque splendour, they struggled.

A senior Tory strategist said: "Anything that makes a person empathise with John Major is an election-winner. At first it was very difficult to make the Prime Minister do the confiding bit. He was worried about being cheesy and we had to coax the family anecdotes out of him. We know it has been a real success because Tony Blair had to follow us this year. But the Americans go too far with the way they make the President mention his third cousin twice removed who is a paraplegic and deaf."

But he admitted that it works only if you have the right raw materials. "If I wouldn't have worked with toffs like Alec Douglas-Hume because most of the electorate would be left cold by tales of velvet collars and nannies. William Hague could probably use his Yorkshire roots quite effectively and Michael Howard could talk about his Welsh immigrant past. But William Waldegrave would have problems with Eton."

Mr Blair's anecdote about his father was unscripted but aides were warned that he wanted to "touch a personal note".

But a veteran Labour strategist explained that Mr Blair uses it for different reasons. "Tony has extraordinary gravitas and personality but we don't want him to look too remote. This normalises him. Mr Major uses his roots to prove that he is not the middle-class grey banker that he seems, and actually had a quite extraordinary childhood for a Tory leader."

Margaret Thatcher never tried to make her conference speeches more cosy and intimate with sentimental details about her childhood in pinaflore and plaits at Grantham. Nor did she dream of bringing her ruins into speeches and Denis was left on the golf course, according to her speechwriters. Her mother wasn't even mentioned in her autobiography. Only her father, Alderman Roberts, was ever used to enhance the Thatcher story and that was usually in interviews. Baroness Thatcher would explain how she had learnt the values of thrift and good housekeeping while working behind the till in his shop.

The former Labour leader Neil Kinnock felt the same and hated being thought of as mawkish. He was prepared to modernise the party with roses and balloons but didn't believe his childhood in the Welsh valleys was public property.



Leo Blair and, below, Margaret Thatcher's father, Alderman Roberts



One successful week in politics will not suffice

The Tories have decided to play the class card.

Honest John the ordinary grammar school lad versus Phoney Tony the privileged public school boy. This contrast was strikingly developed in John Major's unusually personal and at times almost chip-on-the-shoulder speech. But he should be careful about attacking people from privileged backgrounds: almost three fifths of his Cabinet sitting behind him yesterday went to public schools, including three Old Etonians.

This approach is based, like so much else in politics nowadays, on focus groups, discussions between a dozen or more target voters to find out which themes and images strike a chord. The Tories claim that people in their groups repeatedly say that Tony Blair is "smarmy", while Mr Major is seen as down-to-earth, an ordinary man who has been successful through his own efforts. For what it is worth, Labour says its groups regard Mr Blair as a strong leader and decisive and Mr Major as weak and directionless.

The Tories believe that contrasting Mr Major and Mr Blair helps to dramatise the parties' different appeals. Mr Major's personal odyssey from Coldharbour Lane to Downing Street - highlighted in his first conference as leader in 1991 and in a party election broadcast in 1992 - is seen as epitomising what the party means by the Bournemouth conference slogan of *Opportunity for all*. It provides a focus for Tory policies on encouraging social mobility through reform of welfare and spreading educational choice.

Throughout the week, Tory strategists - the influential duo of David Willetts and Danny Finkelstein - developed the quasi-populist theme of the Tories as the party of the "hard-working classes" (carefully in the plural to make it a cross-class appeal) dealing with people's direct concerns, "a good education, a rewarding job, security". By contrast, Labour was presented as the party of the Islington "chattering classes" concerned with esoteric issues.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

like constitutional reform. Mr Blair is vulnerable here. His appeal is greater among the middle-aged and middle-class from the South East than with traditional Labour voters.

The key test is whether this marketing strategy is backed up by policy substance. During the week, ministers outlined fresh proposals on, for example, welfare-to-work and educational choice. But Mr Major himself was content with a "trust the manager to finish the job" appeal. He presented himself as the experienced leader, in direct contrast to the inexperienced Mr Blair, who knows how to handle tricky problems, the "ceaseless tasks" of government. He spoke movingly about Northern Ireland. There was no real hint of how a Tory fifth term would be different and not just more of the same. This was typified by the pledge on health spending. There is a case for a trust "the devil you know" appeal, as Mr Major conceded in an interview last Sunday. It suits his personality, but I doubt if it will be enough.

Mr Major's relaxed performance yesterday was in tune with the week. It was the Tories' most successful, and least publicly fractious, conference since the last election. The party is at ease with itself for the time being. The Cabinet sceptics do not want to be seen to rock the boat and appear disloyal before the election. The truce on Europe may not, last but not least, so deeply felt as the arguments on a single currency. That will determine whether the Bournemouth conference has a lasting impact on the public. The cheerfulness of ministers at the end of the week was partly relief and partly whistling in the wind. Few really believe that one harmonious week will change the Tories' election prospects. It is a necessary but far from sufficient condition for remaining in office.

PETER RIDDELL

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Briton who set up Philippine sex tours jailed for 16 years

By ABBY TAN IN MANILA, MICHAEL HORSNELL AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

A BRITISH travel agent has been sentenced to the maximum 16 years for promoting child prostitution in the Philippines after being trapped by an undercover campaigner from Christian Aid.

Michael Clarke, 50, advertised 6000 sex holidays in a brochure promising that clients would find an "Adult Disney World". He is the third foreigner to be convicted under a tough new law aimed at protecting the nation's 60,000 child prostitutes.

Clarke, from Eastbourne, was clandestinely filmed offering to arrange child prostitutes, which he called "chickens", for Martin Coughlin, who was posing as a client but works for Christian Aid in London.

Clarke was later tracked down in the Philippines by Father Shay Cullen, an Irish priest who devotes his life to saving children and women from the island's thriving sex industry. As he was sentenced, Clarke shouted: "I'm completely innocent. I have suffered enough." before being taken back to the provincial prison where he gives other inmates 30p haircuts in order to buy cigarettes. He said that he would file a "strong appeal".

Clarke's sex tour itinerary included "a short Jeep ride into 'Sin City' to a very special establishment, the 'OK Corral', where dozens of headstrong young fillies are tethered." Clients were invited to "choose your mount".

A divorcee with an adult daughter, he told potential customers he could arrange sex with girls as young as 12. "You have to give her a nice time and treat her to, say, hamburger and chips," he said, "something she's probably never eaten before. Then she'll do what you ask her for."

Olongapo, the former site of an American naval base, is infamous for bars and nightclubs that once catered to US servicemen, as is Clarke's



Father Shay Cullen, who tracked down Clarke

other sex holiday destination, Angeles City. Father Cullen, who runs a refuge organisation, Preda, used his contacts to trace Clarke to a rented beach bungalow a year ago. The priest realised a westerner was living there because the shirts on the washing line were bigger than a Filipino's. He called the police after finding a hand-drawn poster outside the building with a drawing of a naked boy tied to a spit over a fire and the promise: "Outrageous happenings on the beach. Dr Crazy will bring you on a tour."

Father Cullen said: "He has called me the Devil who was trying to persecute him. He deserves that sentence for promoting kids and being insulting to Filipinos. It is a terrible exploitation of the poor."

Clarke, an ex-market trader, also ran a scam aimed at the yachting community on the South Coast of England, persuading victims to send a £55 insurance fee to appear in a non-existent epic sailing movie being filmed in Thailand. He operated the fraud from a telephone in a girls bar.

Another Briton, Douglas Slade, a former seaman, is awaiting trial on child-molesting charges.



Michael Clarke is driven away in handcuffs after being sentenced to 16 years jail

Moroccans unlikely to free pregnant British teenager

By JOANNA BAILE

A PREGNANT British teenager jailed for drug smuggling in Morocco after her father tipped-off police is unlikely to be granted her request to be released before the birth.

Sally Griffiths, 18, discovered she was pregnant two months into her five-year sentence and asked for her freedom in an appeal court on Thursday so that her baby, expected in April, would not be born in prison. Her solicitor, Stephen Jakobi, of Fair Trials Abroad, said yesterday: "We are confident that the sentence will be reduced, but she is likely to give birth while in prison." The result of the appeal will be known on Thursday.

A Moroccan Embassy spokesman said yesterday that Miss Griffiths would be allowed to choose between keeping the baby or handing it over to relatives. He said: "She will be able to give birth in a hospital and keep the baby with her in prison until it reaches the age of two, which is the age when Moroccan women traditionally stop breastfeeding."

"After that it will be given to the next of kin to look after because it is not fair on an older child to bring it up in prison. She can also hand the child to her next of kin straight after the birth if she wants to."

Miss Griffiths, who became pregnant just before her arrest in July, was sentenced with

her friend Claire Martin in August for trying to smuggle five kilograms of cannabis, worth £23,000, from Morocco to Amsterdam. The women, flatmates from Colchester, Essex, are sharing a 10ft by 20ft cell with five other female convicts at the Oukacha prison in Casablanca.

The women were caught after a tip-off from Miss Griffiths's father, Nigel. He had hoped that a local policeman would give her a verbal warning and said he was outraged at her sentence.

A spokeswoman for Prisoners Abroad said yesterday: "Moroccan women have their families nearby to bring in fresh food every day and to look after their welfare, but Miss Griffiths does not have this so there are bound to be concerns for the baby."



Griffiths: five years for smuggling drugs

Tourist killed in crash on Majorca

By ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH holidaymaker died and 45 others were injured when their coach overturned after a head-on collision with a car in Majorca.

The dead woman was named by Spanish police as Dawn Parker, 30, a supermarket worker who was on her first holiday abroad. Her son James, 11, had to be cut from the wreckage and suffered serious leg injuries. The Spanish driver of the car, which apparently skidded into the path of the coach, causing it to veer off the road, was also killed.

Last night ten people were still being treated at four hospitals. The accident happened close to Campos, about 12 miles from the capital Palma, as the coach was returning the tourists to their hotels and apartments at 1am after an excursion. Some 50 British tourists, a British holiday company representative and a Spanish driver were on board. All the tourists had booked their holidays

through Sunworld of Bromley, southeast London. Their ages ranged from five to 93. A company spokeswoman said the holidaymakers were from various parts of Britain. "My understanding is that the majority of those injured suffered cuts and bruises," she said.

All were on one or two-week package holidays and had spent the evening at a traditional "fiesta meal and cabaret" in Son Amar. Many were staying at the Club Aguamar in Calas de Mallorca on the east coast of the island. Others were at the Club Cala Barca and the Malaga One.

Dawn Parker was from Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, and worked in a supermarket, according to reports yesterday. Her husband Michael, 30, and three other sons, aged five, six and nine, were also all injured.

□ The emergency number for friends and relatives of those involved is 0113-236 1777.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

Clarke pledge propels pound to 20-month high

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE POUND was the star performer on foreign exchanges yesterday, surging to a 20-month high against the German mark as the markets reacted with relief to the Chancellor's pledge that he will not throw away sensible economic policies to win votes.

The pound jumped to DM2.4124 from DM2.3955, its highest level since February 1995. In the past two months alone sterling has appreciated by nearly 6 per cent against the German currency. Against a basket of currencies, the pound closed at \$7.8. This was its best level for 20 months and nearly 5 per cent higher than two months ago.

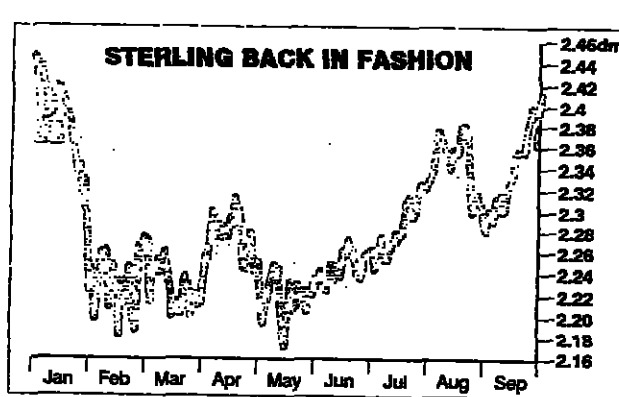
The stock market joined in the optimism and was given a further boost by a buoyant

Wall Street. The FT-SE 100 index closed 33.4 points higher, at 4,028.1.

Kenneth Clarke's warning to the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth on Thursday, that he would not cut taxes unless they were sustainable, removed one element of political risk from investing in the pound. A layer of risk had already been taken out of sterling the previous week when Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, promised fiscal and monetary discipline.

Tony Norfield, currency strategist at ABN Amro, said that the apparent commitment to sensible economic policies by both main election contenders is the main reason for the latest leg of sterling's rally rather than euphoria about a successful Tory conference.

"The real issue is that Ken Clarke has said that he will not indulge in a last-ditch attempt at crazy policies in



order to win votes," Mr Norfield said.

The removal of most of the obvious political risks after the conference season has added to other factors that have fuelled sterling's rise. As recently as Thursday, for example, the pound rallied after a small but disappointing rise in underlying inflation to 2.9 per cent in September, from 2.8 per cent in August. This appeared finally to rule out another cut in base rates.

Other factors helping the pound include the strength of the dollar and the developing situation in Europe. As it has appeared more likely that a single currency will go ahead but possibly on fudged economic criteria, so the perception has grown that the euro,

when established, may be a soft rather than the hard currency always envisaged.

This has undermined the mark and helped those currencies less likely to join a first wave of entrants into the euro, but which are still striving to meet the Maastricht economic convergence criteria — positive in the view of investors.

Unravelling the "euro effect" on currencies is difficult, as economists at Swiss Bank commented yesterday: "When it all gets confusing, you buy sterling." However, as the European policies of the Conservative and Labour parties develop, the pound has the advantage of being backed by an economy that has shown healthy, sustained growth without inflationary pressures, while many European economies are just emerging weakly from recession.

Runaway form, page 24

NatWest package branded immoral

BY ROBERT MILLER

BANK staff yesterday condemned the "golden handcuffs" that will make millionaires of 120 key employees of J O Hambro Magan, the corporate finance boutique that is being taken over by NatWest Group.

As *The Times* reported yesterday, the NatWest Markets purchase of Hambro Magan means that up to 120 key staff of the newly enlarged group will earn generous remuneration packages worth between £1 million and £2 million for the top performers. The unions said that the NatWest deal signalled an unwelcome return to 1980s-style City salaries and were inappropriate when tens of thousands of jobs were being shed in the banking sector.

Barclays also confirmed that Bill Harrison, who recently joined from Robert Fleming as the chief executive of BZW, would earn a one-off £4.2 million in his first two years.

Dai Davies, assistant general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, said: "When NatWest is planning to shed thousands more jobs through redundancies and branch closures, to be paying such huge sums to staff to stay in their jobs is quite frankly immoral."

Ed Sweeney, general secretary of Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, said the NatWest Markets deal was an insult. He added that most staff "would welcome a guarantee of job security for the next three years, let alone have money stuffed down their throats to stay."

Iain MacLean of Unifi, the Barclays staff union, said: "To be shelling out such obscene sums is hardly conducive to building staff confidence. It's a kick in the teeth."

NatWest Markets said the matter was confidential.

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Bejam founder set to profit as Majestic floats

BY PAUL DURMAN

JOHN APHORTH, founder of the Bejam frozen food chain, will make his second stock market fortune next month, when Majestic Wine floats on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) for an estimated £20 million.

This places a £14 million value on the 70 per cent stake in Majestic that Mr Aphorth and his family will retain after selling nearly £15 million of shares in the flotation. The family made more than £60 million when Bejam was taken over by Iceland in 1989.

Majestic's 59 warehouses only sell wine by the case. Its customers, many of them wine enthusiasts, spend an average £34 a purchase. Four out of every five of Majestic's staff are graduates, who are encouraged to develop their knowledge of wine so that they are able to advise customers on potential purchases. The

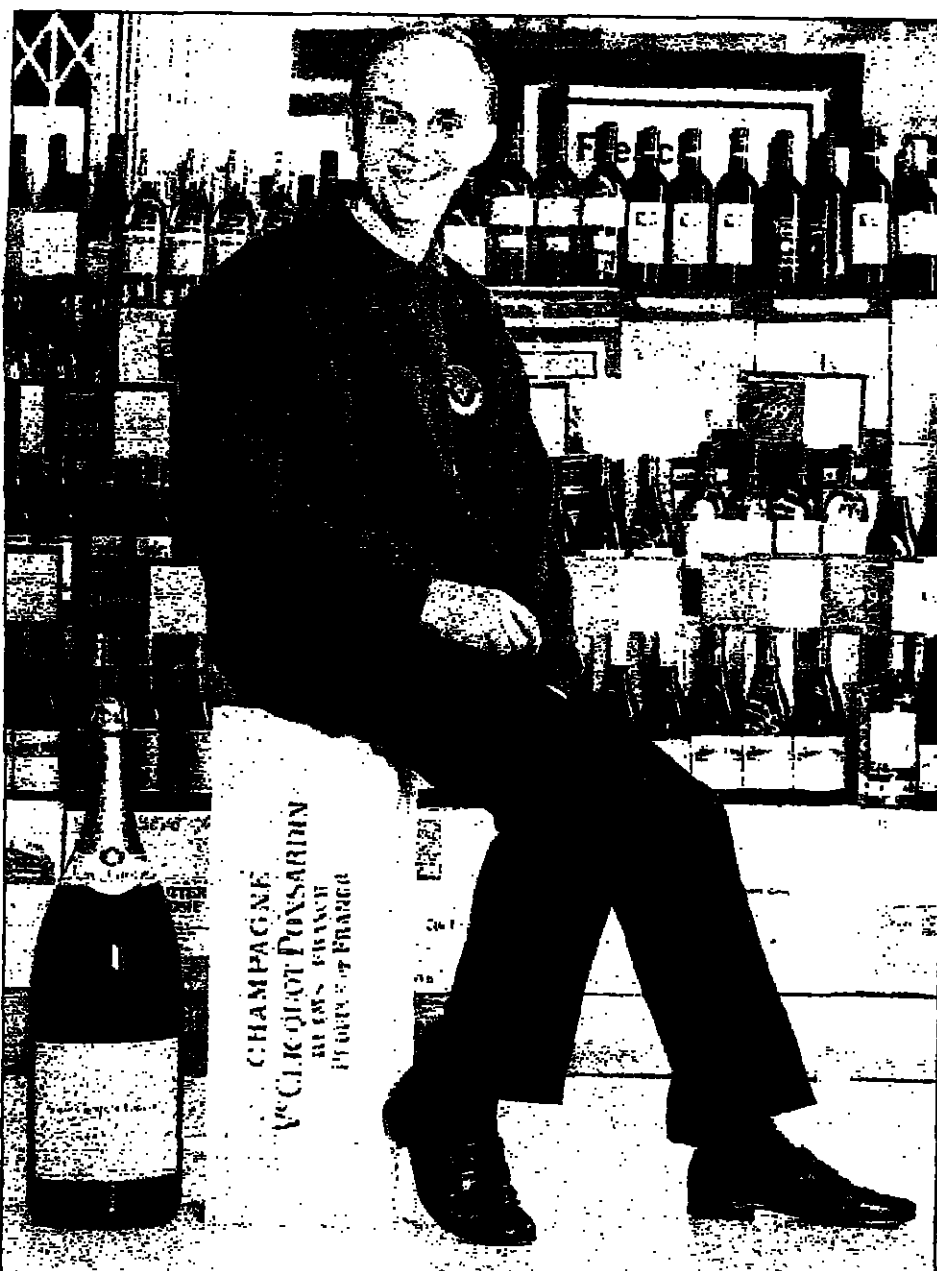
warehouses are open seven days a week and hold daily wine tastings.

The company's four executive directors are all ex-Bejam. Mr Aphorth, 61, works part-time as chairman. The chief executive is Tim How, 45, who was previously Bejam's managing director. Tony Mason, trading director, was the founder of Wizard Wine, the firm that the Aphorth team bought out of Bejam after the Iceland takeover.

Majestic, which sells 150,000 bottles of wine every week, will receive about £2 million from the flotation, although a total of about £4 million of shares will be placed with investors. About 40 staff will receive about £500,000 of shares through the exercise of options.

The money will help Majestic to accelerate its expansion. Mr How believes it should be possible to double the size of the chain and is seeking new sites in 70 locations.

Over the past three years, sales have grown from £30.1 million to £40.1 million, while operating profits have risen from £449,000 to £1.2 million. However, the most recent pre-tax results have been re-stated at £700,000, reflecting a £550,000 writedown of four properties from their late 1980s valuations.



Crate expectations: Tim How believes Majestic has the potential to double in size

Wickes investors still in the dark

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WICKES, the DIY retailer, has again delayed the letter to long-suffering shareholders that will explain how it came to overstate profits by about £50 million over the past three years. The delay is believed to have been caused by a failure of the board and its advisers to agree who to blame for the affair.

The company promised to inform shareholders of the

findings of an investigation by Price Waterhouse, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, by September 30. Then it indicated that the letters would be sent out by the end of this week. The letter is not now expected until the middle of next week because directors and their advisers have failed to agree on how to describe the roles of various people in the affair.

Henry Sweetbaum, former chairman and chief executive of Wickes, resigned the day after its shares were suspended on June 26 after the discovery of accounting irregularities. Since then, Les Rosenthal, group trading director, and Chris Miles, commercial director, have also resigned. Wickes has yet to decide whether to pursue legal action against former employ-

ees or others who are implicated.

The shares are unlikely to be readmitted for trading until December. The writedowns to take into account the overstatement of profits mean that the company is expected to attempt a £30 million rights issue and to sell some overseas operations. A buyer, possibly B&Q or RMC, is expected to emerge in the long term.

Man United tackles takeover talk

BY KEITH RODGERS

SHARES in Manchester United soared 61p to 513p yesterday amid mounting speculation of a possible takeover bid.

At the closing price, the company is valued at more than £317 million, after a report in *The Times* yesterday that Martin Edwards, chief executive of the company and the largest shareholder with 17 per cent, expected offers and would be prepared to do business at the right price. Manchester United has already rejected

one approach this year by VCI, Michael Grade's video distribution company. Its 480p a share offer valued the company at about £300 million.

Whitbread, tipped as a potential bidder, yesterday said it was not interested in tabling an offer. Sources close to Granada and United News & Media indicated that they were also not in the running. However, analysts say the club's success in building its leisure business and the potential revenues from TV, particularly pay-per-view, make the group an increas-

ingly attractive target. It is thought that a bidder would have to pay upwards of £400 million to buy the company.

The shares rose in spite of a statement from Manchester United that it was not aware of any proposals. Last night Mr Edwards said: "We have never said that we are interested in any way in selling Manchester United. We are successful, so there will be interest, but it is not something we would ever encourage."

The big match, page 48

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4028.1	(+33.4)
FTSE All share	1976.38	(+13.09)
Nikkei	2096.16	(+17.32)
Dow Jones	5963.04	(+41.37)
S&P Composite	688.59	(+5.27)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	99 3/4%	(98 1/2%)
Yield	6.84%	(6.89%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Little long gilt	110 1/4%	(110 1/4%)
Future (Dec)	110 1/4%	(110 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.7549	(1.5665)
London	1.5750	(1.5663)
DM	2.4125	(2.3980)
FF	8.1837	(8.0869)
Sfr	1.9770	(1.9610)
Yen	175.88	(174.29)
£ index	87.8	(87.2)

US DOLLAR

London	1.5319	(1.5282)
DM	5.1810	(5.1680)
Sfr	1.2545	(1.2495)
Yen	111.65	(111.27)
£ index	97.4	(97.3)

Tokyo close Yen 111.37

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$23.50	(\$23.20)
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GOLD

London close	\$381.05	(\$381.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

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Press might care to take its regulatory cue from the City

I couldn't resist. The invitation to write this piece came on the day that Lord Wakeham fired yet another warning shot across the bows of the fourth estate about the need to act in accordance with the spirit of self-regulation. His letter to *The Times* ended with the somewhat pious hope that they "would rise to the challenge".

The irony was inescapable, especially to me, having until fairly recently been a City regulator who was at the receiving end for many years of some of the media's general scepticism about self-regulation. Their argument was usually along the lines of the Financial Services Act system of regulation being self-interested, a soft touch, generally about "chaps letting each other off over lunch", usually coupled with the suggestion that

what we really needed was a US-style Securities and Exchange Commission with real teeth to sort out the perceived problems.

So it doesn't seem unreasonable to take this opportunity to make the observation about what appears to be the complete absence of any real teeth in the self-regulatory regime for the press. Certainly in contrast to what practitioners in the financial services industry have to put up with these days.

When was the last time you heard about a journalist who had a licence to pursue his or her profession revoked, and therefore being forced to switch careers, or being fined, or being told to take examinations, or being subject to an ongoing "fit and proper test"? The City regulators, on the other hand, do all of these things on a

regular basis — to both firms and individuals.

Interestingly, Lord Wakeham's organisation only acts when it receives a complaint. Hence its name. On that basis City regulators such as the SFA and IMRO could let most of their staff go as they wouldn't have much to do at all.

Another issue worth airing is the "good news is no news" problem. Journalists would sometimes ask why we, at the SFA, had not issued a disciplinary notice for a while. The suggestion being that we were not doing our job properly. It was never considered very helpful for us to point out that, for the most part, firms were complying with the rules and complaints from their customers were few and far between.

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Christopher Sharples

In point of fact, good news stories about the City are not hard to come by. There is no shortage of overseas firms wanting to set up shop here and so one of its greatest

strengths, namely its critical mass of banks and other financial organisations, remains unchallenged. Equally important is the way in which some of its key institutions are adept at reinventing themselves in the face of rapid change.

One such example is the Stock Exchange, which for a while was really on the ropes with hardly a friend in sight. To avoid allegations of sleaze I had better declare an interest as a vendor of their real-time prices, consequently paying them large sums of money. Now, however, they really seem to be getting their act together.

Under the more stable and measured influence of its current senior executives it has achieved the successful completion of a major software project known as

Sequence (on time and within budget, as Christine Dunn is fond of saying); it has been trading record volumes; it has enabled 200 smaller companies to raise capital on the AIM market; it has attracted more overseas companies than New York, and it has embraced new technology generally as an agent for change in the creation of a new order-driven market.

SEAQ International may always have been just a transitional arrangement while other European countries caught up in terms of their domestic markets, but a more promising future beckons in terms of the listing in London of overseas companies. Apparently there are nearly 1,000 companies in China already who are in a position, should they choose to do so, to list in London under the new

agreements signed last week. The Exchange is busily marketing itself to several other countries such as Vietnam, India and Indonesia.

Of course, it certainly helps to have a regulatory regime that is pragmatic, involves practitioners, has a wide range of disciplinary sanctions as well as the statutory backing and, therefore, the teeth necessary to deal with those who break not only the rules but also the spirit of self-regulation, which is what it's all about.

Perhaps Lord Wakeham's Press Complaints Commission could take a leaf...

□ Christopher Sharples is chairman of ICV and past chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority

Dow sustains runaway form

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE Dow Jones industrial average celebrated the longest bull phase in its history yesterday with a rise of more than 40 points. It has broken all previous records for a continuous rise in share prices during which there has not been a 10 per cent correction.

Canny investors who put their money into the market on October 11, 1990 after the 21 per cent market fall associated with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, have seen the Dow climb from 2,365 to above 3,000, an increase of 153 per cent. The S&P 500, a wider measure of share prices has soared from 295 to 700, while the Nasdaq index, which mea-

sures small company stocks, has risen 270 per cent.

Some analysts are worried that a bull market that breaks all historical precedents cannot have much further to run. Lazlo Birinyi of Birinyi Associates, a Connecticut broking firm, said: "My view is that the market can't keep rising like this, but I have to admit that so far I've been wrong."

The stock market has benefited from a benign combination of low interest and inflation rates, solid economic growth and a frenzy of equity investment by the so-called "baby boom" generation. Money flowing into mutual [US unit trust] funds has

averaged nearly \$20 billion a month for the past year. "It is different from any previous bull market," said Joseph Batipaglia, equity strategist at Gruntal & Co.

In spite of a summer setback when many analysts believed the market was entering a long-term decline, share prices recovered and then raced above 6,000. Few Wall Street experts had expected the Dow to reach that level this year.

Ominously, however, some of the excesses that emerged before the 1987 crash are showing up again. Salaries on Wall Street have broken all records this year, with multi-million-dollar bonuses for

high-flying investment bankers, while companies have been poaching each other's staff with massive pay offers. Deutsche Bank in particular has raised eyebrows with huge salaries and bonuses promised to new employees in New York and London as it tries to build a global investment banking business.

As in the 1980s, Manhattan is full of young brokers and bankers riding in limousines and puffing big cigars. Property prices are soaring and heroin appears to have replaced cocaine as the drug of the "Bonus Brigade".

Tempus, page 26



Mike Piercy wants GlycoSport to be used by people other than athletes like Sally Gunnell

GlycoSport joins Ofex

GLYCOSPORT, the high-energy sport drink, is coming to the Ofex market in an offer for subscription which capitalises GlycoSport Soft Drinks, its producer, at £15 million (Fraser Nelson writes).

The drink offers calorie release without sugar or glucose additives. Since 1993, it has been used by athletes — including Sally Gunnell, the Olympic hurdler — but its medicinal taste has prohib-

ited marketing to the general public.

Mike Piercy, who founded Universal Wines and Spirits, set up GSD in 1994 to make the drink more palatable. Since June, it has been available through Boots stores in a lemon flavour.

GSD, which is sponsoring tomorrow's Manchester Marathon, is raising £700,000 from the issue, as St James's Partners places seven million of its shares at 10p each.

TNT share trader eludes authorities

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE mystery surrounding the true identity of Mark Booth, the alleged insider trader, intensified yesterday as the Australian authorities revealed that he had written to his broker to explain his actions, but had not revealed his whereabouts.

The man, thought to be British, who made a \$2 million profit from options dealing ahead of Dutch group KPN's surprise \$2 billion bid for TNT, the Australian transport group, last week, is understood to have contacted Ord Minnett, the Sydney stockbroker, by mail on two occasions since the controversial transaction.

Rosie Webb, a lawyer with the Australian Securities Commission, said yesterday that the commission did not know who the man was. "We really haven't got a lead on whether it is his real name or not. We are following various avenues to try and find out who he is," she said.

The Federal Court agreed this week to a continued freeze

of the profits from the transaction while the commission continues its investigations.

TNT shares were trading at about \$1.56 each when Mr Booth bought call options over five million TNT shares at an exercise price of \$2. They are now trading at \$2.40, just below KPN's offer price of \$2.45 a share.

Mr Booth is understood to have ordered the options in TNT over the telephone and paid with untraceable bank cheques, while the telephone numbers linked to him have led only to an answer machine.

Chris Gorman, managing director of Ord Minnett, said Mr Booth's letter gave "an absolute denial of any insider knowledge" and set out his commercial reasons for buying the TNT call options when he did. Mr Gorman said he did not know whether Booth was in Australia at all, admitting: "I don't know where he is at this point in time. If I knew where he was, the ASC would know where he was."

Ferry wars claim jobs as Stena service ends

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE cross-Channel price war claimed another victim yesterday, when Stena announced that it is to pull out of its heavily loss-making Southampton to Cherbourg route at a cost of 169 jobs.

The service, which is losing a "seven-figure sum" annually, has been operating since

1991. It was killed off by cut-price deals on the short Dover to Calais crossing and the opening of the Channel Tunnel, the company said.

Passenger volumes on the route have fallen steadily since the peak of 1994, when the service was used by 581,000 people. This fell to 549,000 last year and to 400,000 in the first nine months of this year, a fall of 15 per cent on the same period in 1995.

A spokesman for Stena said that passenger numbers had failed to respond to a "very aggressive" pricing and marketing campaign this year, which had seen brochure prices cut by 20 per cent in the peak season.

The service, which offered one round trip a day in winter and two in summer, will cease in December.

However, the spokesman said it would maintain a presence in the "Western Channel" through a new fast ferry service between Portsmouth and Cherbourg starting next year.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.80	1.80
Canada \$	1.75	1.75
Denmark \$	6.46	6.46
France F	1.75	1.75
Germany DM	1.75	1.75
Italy L	1.75	1.75
Japan Yen	1.75	1.75
Netherlands Gld	1.75	1.75
Portugal Esc	1.75	1.75
Spain Ptas	1.75	1.75
Sweden Kr	1.75	1.75
Switzerland Fr	1.75	1.75
USA \$	1.75	1.75

Notes for small denomination notes as supplied by Barclay's Bank. Offers valid for travellers' cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.

Alpha profits down

Alpha Airports Group, the retailer and flight services group, suffered an 11 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £10 million in the six months to July 31. The results were in line with expectations, after a profit warning in August, but Alpha shares fell 3p to 107½p.

Its catering division, which serves about 33 million meals a year, saw operating profits fall by £2.5 million to £4.3 million, largely because of increased losses in America. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.75p. Tempus, page 26

Insurance rise

Car insurance premiums have risen significantly for the first time in more than two years, according to the AA. On average, drivers are paying £20.24 more for comprehensive cover now than three months ago, and £14.95 more for third-party insurance.

The AA's British Insurance Premium Index, which covers the three months to October, reveals that buildings insurance costs have increased by £1.46 in the last three months although contents cover costs 12p less.

Tulow grows

Tulow Oil, the Dublin oil and gas producer and explorer, plans to expand its operations over the next year, the company said yesterday. The company reported a 43 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £12.1 million. Earnings per share jumped 36 per cent to 10.64p, compared with 10.47p. Again there is no dividend.

New base

Airtours, the tour operator, is establishing a subsidiary in California to expand its activities in North America. Sunquest Holdings, to be based in Los Angeles from April 1997, will offer holidays from California to Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean. Airtours shares rose 13p to 606½p.

Cliveden buys

Cliveden, the luxury hotels and leisure club company, has acquired the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath from Queens Moat Houses for £8.5 million. The company plans to refurbish the hotel over the next year and develop a club facility in the same style as its showpiece hotel at Cliveden, Berkshire.

Prices fall

Output prices for manufacturing industries in the Irish Republic fell 0.2 per cent in September from the previous month, the Central Statistics Office said yesterday. On a year-on-year basis, prices fell 0.7 per cent.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Virgin laid bare

Richard Branson remains one of most written about but least understood businessmen in the world. The Sunday Times has for the first time assembled a detailed picture of his Virgin empire...

Business Focus — The Sunday Times, tomorrow

OUR £20 MILLION RE-INVESTMENT ON MERSEYSIDE IS DOWN TO THE QUALITY OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

Attracting major companies is one way to test the mettle of an area.

But the ultimate compliment is when a company is so impressed it increases its investment there.

So thanks, Kodak, for the compliment.

After nearly 50 years on Merseyside, the American giant decided to re-invest and expand here, making it their biggest chemicals operation in Europe. They have found the operation to have one of the most productive workforces of any of their plants in Europe, and the level of job applicants is always of the highest quality.

"There is a sense of energy and 'can-do' mentality in our workforce which mirrors our own philosophy."

So what's so special about Merseyside? The grants at local, national and European Union levels? Not one but three Training and Enterprise Councils? The number of good sites? One of the most sophisticated telecommunications systems in Europe? The co-operation between new and existing investors to pool their knowledge of the region?

Well, yes, yes, yes, yes and yes.

But there's something on Merseyside only Merseyside can ever have - one and a half million Merseysiders.

As existing investors like Barclays, Ford, QVC and General Motors have discovered, the people here have adaptability and enthusiasm running in their veins.

They've taken to training and retraining with a vengeance. Contributing to productivity levels that are 12% higher than the national average.

"New working practices have been implemented quickly and efficiently."

And the workforce at Kodak? They've an enviable reputation for meeting quality standards and adopting new management systems.

For instance, a new business development of supplying photographic materials to hundreds of mini-labs throughout the UK has already achieved a Perfect Delivery level of 98% OTIFNE (On Time, In Full, No Errors) when 90% is regarded as excellent. They are not however resting on their laurels as they strive for a perfect 100%.

That's why Kodak has poured an extra £20 million into their Kirkby plant in the last 18 months.

So whether you're in the photographic business or not, one thing's for certain.

Developing companies need look no further than Merseyside.



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A WORKING WEEK FOR: WALTER HASSELKUS

German spins wheel of fortune at Rover

Oliver August follows the tracks of the man charged with rediscovering what it was that once made British motors work so well

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WALTER HASSELKUS is not a trouble-shooter with a carving knife concealed behind his back. Nor is he the stereotypical wooden and humourless German. Rover head of office can undo the seat

relative newcomer to the car industry. Until last year, he was overseeing BMW's motorcycle business and is still a member of the main BMW board. While this means that he has to spend a few days in Munich every month, it also gives Rover a voice at the top table, which it was lacking under John

Towers, from whom Herr Hasselkus took over. With his self-confessed ignorance of the UK car sector, it came as quite a surprise when he was asked to deliver a speech on the centenary of the British car industry at the 1996 Motor Show next Tuesday. His experience of the industry comprises exactly six weeks of hectic meetings, interspersed with visits to Rover plants around the country. The travelling, at least, will have made sure that he has spent some time in a British car, not something many German car

builders can say. His day at the Motor Show will start at the Rover stand at 8.15. He then has ten hours to stroll around and learn something about his British competitors before giving his "state of the nation" address during the gala dinner.

After dinner, he will return to his wife and their 17-year-old son, who attends an international school in Abingdon. They moved into the new family home

last week, leaving behind two daughters who are studying at German universities. Even at the weekend, however, the family does not necessarily see very much of Herr Hasselkus, who is a keen sportsman. He plays tennis, but "not very well". Apparently he wielded a

racket so frequently during his student days that he was considered among peers to be rather better suited to the physical than the mental. He is also an enthusiastic skier, though again, he emphasises, "not a very good one". Herr Hasselkus is a model of English self-deprecation. Asked about modern car technology, he smiles, shrugs and says: "Don't ask me. I hardly understand it myself."

But behind the smooth veneer is a man who likes straight-talking. Rover executives will doubtless learn to appreciate their new boss's honesty, though polite and almost coy, he comes to the point before you can say Mini.

Sporting a 6ft 4in frame, he dominates the board. At the BMW head office he recently told other executives that it was "utter nonsense" to attempt to impose BMW quality standards on the production of the revamped Mini.

Herr Hasselkus has his own vision of what he wants Rover to become. The greatest change that customers will notice over the next few years is the reduction in Rover models. Executives have been crowding around drawing



Walter Hasselkus has swapped a fleet of BMWs with Munich licence plates for a Range Rover on business trips and a Rover 800, used by his wife

boards to discuss plans for two new cars, one combining the Rover 600 and 800, the other the Rover 200 and 400. With this cutting exercise, Herr Hasselkus wants to give Rover the same focus that made BMW a successful exporter. The Rover range, he says, is too fragmented to break into foreign markets at the moment. "We are not where we want to be," he said. "We will be applying the same quality control mechanisms to Rover as to BMW."

Then there is the Mini. One Rover executive said: "Mr Hasselkus taught us that the Mini is not a product but a brand." It took a foreigner to alert the company to the fact that the Mini is a cult car around the world. From Germany to Japan car enthusiasts do not care much for Rovers but they spend millions every year to individualise their Minis, with anything from leather seats to shark fins on the roof.

The Japanese even organise regular competitions for the best Mini revamps. The new Mini will be sold as a luxury product rather than as a cheap car, part of the Hasselkus revolution. So did he find chaos when he arrived at Rover? He is diplomatic. "There were no skeletons in the cupboards, no surprises. But we want to take Rover up-market. What will sell the cars is their Britishness — to me, that means elegance. The design must be British not German. The world is waiting for great British motor cars."

He insists there was no culture clash and he wasn't sent in by the head office to get tough. Accusations that the British workforce is "lazy, stubborn and

incompetent" are simply false. The way that Herr Hasselkus puts it is that "the BMW organisation is more confident than the Rover organisation. BMW is very much used to being successful and has always had very clear direction from the top. Rover is different." Contrary to suggestions, Herr Hasselkus did not arrive with an entourage of hatchmen from Munich. In fact, he is the only German among the top 400 Rover executives. And, unsurprisingly, most of those bosses do not speak German. They breathed a collective sigh of relief when BMW bosses announced after the 1994 acquisition that the official group language was going to be English.

The only other new German speaker in the executive suite is Herr Hasselkus's secretary. She moved over from another department within Rover and often speaks to her boss in German

even though he is perfectly fluent in English. Indeed, Herr Hasselkus is keen to ensure continuity at Rover. Over the past two decades, Rover has on average had a new chief executive every other year, while BMW has had only two in the last 25 years. Herr Hasselkus would like to stay in his position until his retirement in six years' time. This would be a record tenure for Rover.

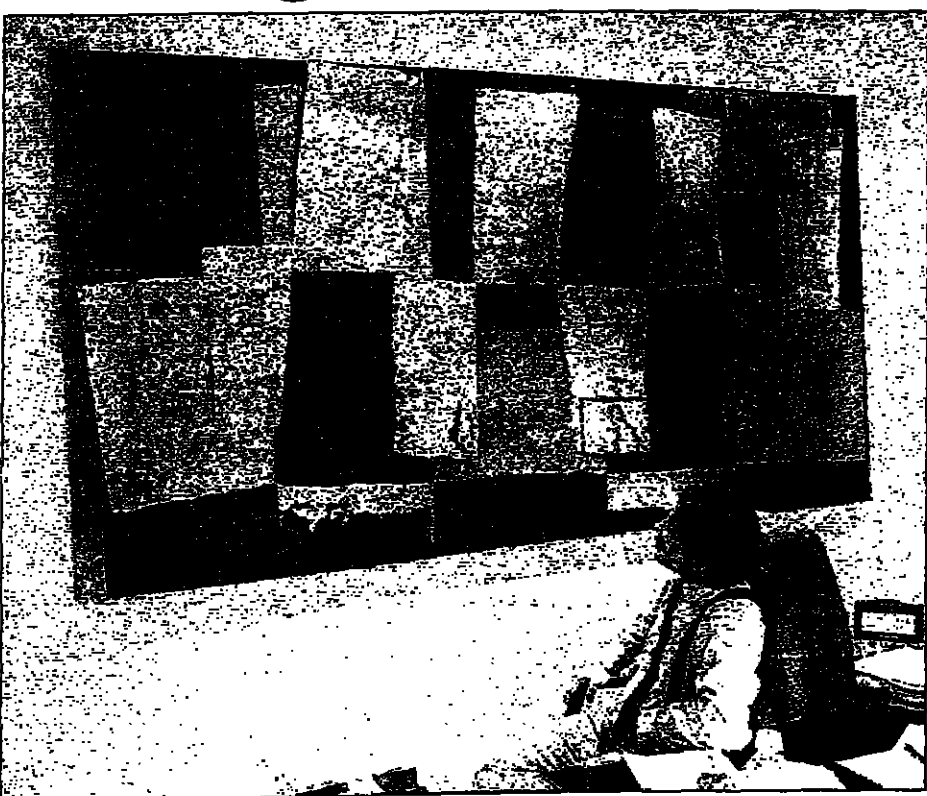
Come 2002, the true measure of his success will be whether the British public has accepted the revamped BMW-modelled Rover. In a speech to the Anglo-German Chamber of Commerce last month, Howard Davies, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, told the audience about his car. "I am very happy to drive a BMW," he said. "Never mind that it was a Land Rover Discovery when I bought it." Herr Hasselkus chuckled.

It took a foreigner to tell Rover that the Mini is a cult car

HIDDEN ASSETS

Elegant abstraction amid a sea of grey desks

Joanna Pitman discovers an insurance broker's art collection that catches the eye — and holds it



Highly coloured view: one of the collection of spectacular oils at Lloyd Thompson

When a company decides to collect and display a range of powerful contemporary art works, it raises the intellectual temperature in the office. It is also likely to stir up a loud disparity of opinion in the huddle that gathers around the coffee machine. And so it is at Lloyd Thompson, the insurance broker based at Beaufort House in St Botolph's Street, Aldgate, London.

With the help of Long & Ryle, the Pimlico gallery specialising in corporate art, Lloyd Thompson has put together a collection of paintings by young British artists that is deliberately designed to catch the eye — and hold it.

That is perhaps because its premises are no oil painting — not the sort of space that naturally attract attention, let alone compliments. Huge open-plan offices fill Lloyd Thompson's second floor of the building, a series of great grey aircraft hangar-like caverns housing 348 brokers, seated in rows, peering into their computer screens, jabbering into their telephones, and ferrying information to each other like worker bees. The only two private offices are occupied by the chief executive and the finance director.

The set-up did not, therefore, lend itself easily to artistic display. So Long

& Ryle has put together a spectacular group of vast canvases of colour bursting with drama, variety and pace. The collection embraces elegant abstraction, quirky figuration, and detailed records of an invented private world. The often repeated criticism that recent art is obscure and hermetic seems to be well off the mark when one is confronted with this variety.

Some of Britain's leading emerging artists are represented. Estelle Thompson, now a much collected young artist who has just had her latest show at the Purdy Hicks Gallery, lures the visitor from the reception area into the open-plan offices with a series of sharp ironic oils — luminous colour applied with an ordinary household decorator's roller brush to create 5ft by 10ft banks of shimmering light that draw in the attentions and questions of the viewer.

Sarah Long, of Long & Ryle, says: "We had a fairly open brief and a pretty tight budget on the collection. One of the directors came to the gallery and we selected some of the

core pieces together. It was a very difficult space to fill successfully. Just endless plain beige walls and a sea of grey desks in the middle, all lined up in rows. But I think the only way to tackle it was to have as many big colourful abstracts as possible in order to make the walls and the spaces memorable."

Good collections have a focus, and if this collection has one it is abstract colour, with an emphasis on imagined landscapes placed so as to engulf the viewer and take them away from the world of marine and non-marine insurance.

But the collection is not bound by narrow integrities of subject or material and the result is dramatic and inspiring, particularly as the current generation of British graduate artists seems to show none of the ponderous, issue-based solemnity of some of their American counterparts.

Dillwyn Smith, a 38-year-old graduate of the Royal College of Art, who is now attracting international attention, has three huge oil abstracts in the collection. Sophie Knight, a graduate of the Royal Academy and

Camberwell School of Art, has an intriguing piece entitled *Summer's End*. Sarah Long says: "These big abstracts together make up the core of a very good collection. Several of the artists represented have become widely collected in the three years since we put this collection together and the value of their work has probably doubled in that time."

The element of risk in putting together this sort of collection of emerging young artists is perhaps one that specially appeals to an insurance broker. But the risk of this particular investment — just £100,000 for 66 works — is nothing to the risk of the reactions of the worker bees in the office.

It seems that approval is far from widespread. One distinctly alienated inmate says: "I'm glad I don't have to look at that blood-spattered scene of purple gloom. This one looks like a whole lot of painted paper doilies. My daughter does that sort of thing at school."

It seems that Estelle Thompson's art collecting policy still faces a long struggle for acceptance. On the other hand, the choice may have been deliberately made to appeal to visiting clients and to keep the worker bees peering diligently into their computer screens.

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STOCK MARKET
MICHAEL CLARK

London bounces back above the 4,000 level

SHARES on the London stock market rebounded, ending back above the 4,000 level and just a few points short of the all-time closing high. The FTSE 100 index closed at its best of the day, with a rise of 33.4 to 4,028.1, supported by a strong opening rise on Wall Street.

London got off to a flying start on the back of an encouraging CBI discount survey and the apparent show of unity on the final day of the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth. Later in the day, the market took heart from US retail sales and producer prices, both of which provided evidence of an economic slowdown.

Trading conditions generally proved thin, with prices squeezed higher by stock shortages. By the close, a total of 644 million shares had changed hands, with the final figure swollen by some weighty lines of stock being absorbed in the market.

They included 20 million Sears at 90p, as the price of the firm's shares fell 10p to 75p. Other lines on offer included 3.39 million Asda, 1p higher at 108p; 1.7 million J Sainsbury, 3p higher at 352p; and 1.7 million Vodafone, 3p higher at 230p.

EMI Group was depressed by talk of falling record sales within the industry. The price fell 10p to £12.85. A little later, a line of a million shares came on offer at £12.70.

The financial performance of Manchester United is almost surpassing that of its Premiership side on the pitch these days. The shares shot up 49p to an all-time high of 510p after a report in *The Times* suggesting that a bid may be on the way from either near neighbour Granada.

Whitbread or United News & Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*.

It is said the terms of such a deal would value the league and cup double winners at £350 million, but the club was quick to play down the story yesterday. A spokesman said the club was not aware of any proposals which could lead to an offer being made for the company.

Manchester United recently turned down an offer worth £300 million from Michael Grade, boss of Channel 4 and VCI, the video distributor. That followed comments from Martin Edwards, chief execu-



Airtours shares rose on the launch of a US subsidiary

utive, that he might be prepared to sell if the price was right. Edwards currently holds 17 per cent of Manchester United, which earlier this week reported a drop in pre-tax profits to £16.7 million.

Granada, up 9p at 870p, has already been in talks with Manchester United about developing its own television broadcasting division. Whit-

bread shed 5p at 694p. United News & Media, 1p higher at 662p, has already had its name linked to Bletchley, 1p higher at 484p, and HTV, up 1p at 376p. It denied any interest in making an offer for the club.

Shares of Matthew Clark, the troubled drinks group, plunged to a five-year low, touching 267p before rallying to close at 269p. A follow-up to the day's 4p lower on the close at 309p. A follow-up to the day's 4p lower on the close at 309p.

Shares of the petrol retailer, rose 4p to 134p after a buy recommendation from Credit Lyonnais, which says that 1997 will be a record year for the group. The group has survived Esso's Price Watch campaign and volumes are now being rebuilt on margins that have already returned to former levels.

slash the price of the underlying stock. Only last month, Clark saw his share price plunge from the 670p level after issuing a warning that profits would be hit by increased competition from "alcopecos". By the close, fewer than a million shares had traded.

Kingsfisher finished 5p higher at 648p in spite of County NatWest, the broker, urging clients to switch into Dixons 23p stronger at 567p.

Back in the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost a tick at £101.72, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks easier at £101.14.

NEW YORK: Reassuring inflation news gave Wall Street a boost, which lifted the Dow Jones industrial average 41.37 points at midday to 5,963.04.

An all-day presentation for brokers was good news for Securicor as the price climbed 6p to 279p. The trip coincided with publication of a buy recommendation from Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker.

It points out that the managed business, which excludes the group's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, commands a turnover of £1.2 billion but profits of only £31 million. It says there is plenty of scope for improvement which would benefit shareholders.

A trip to its Italian operations by brokers lifted Enterprise Oil 17p to 587p.

The profits setback from Alpha Airports was given the thumbs down by brokers, with the price closing 3p lower at 107p, while a profits warning left Airflow Streamlines 70p lower at 185p.

Interim figures due later this month will fall short of expectations. The company blamed the introduction of two significant cab manufacturing programmes.

Shares of Campbell & Armstrong returned from suspension 3p lower at 64p after revealing details of its financial restructuring. Internet Technology was requested on the Alternative Investment Market after the shares were originally suspended to complete a reverse takeover. The price was quoted at the equivalent of 50p and opened at 77p before ending the day at 66p, a rise of 16p on the day.

Airtours rose 13p to 606p as it celebrated the opening of a new tour operating subsidiary in California. This is the group's first venture in the US. GILT-EDGED: The London bond market saw an early lead frittered away after failing to take advantage of former US Treasury bonds and evidence of a slowdown in the US economy.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt slipped a tick to £110.75 as a total of 98,000 contracts were completed.

Back in the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost a tick at £101.72, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks easier at £101.14.

NEW YORK: Reassuring inflation news gave Wall Street a boost, which lifted the Dow Jones industrial average 41.37 points at midday to 5,963.04.

MAJOR INDICES		
New York(midday):		
Dow Jones	5963.04	(+41.37)
S&P Composite	699.88	(+5.27)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	20306.16	(+97.33)
Hong Kong:		

RECENT ISSUES

AEA Technology	334p
Airtech	70p
Amer Ops US Ln	95p
Brunner Mond	170p
Charles Taylor	161p
Cruden Bay	83p
Crutcher Electrom (150)	160p
Electric Retail Sp	197p
Eurasia Mining	315p
Grosvener Land	15p
Harstone 8% Cum	120p
Imperial Tobacco	397p
Internet Tech	66p
Intertec Tele	171p
Lavender	150p
Mears Group	12p
Millennium Chem	1428p
Oriental Resins	206p
Personal Number	84p
Polydoc	69p
Shallbain	199p
Thistle Hotels (170)	173p
Ultra Electronics	392p
Weeks Group	7p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:	
Man Ltd	513p (+61p)
Alys	131p (+11p)
Pison	411p (+28p)
Courtauld Tex	300p (+13p)
Dixons Gp	567p (+23p)
Pegasus	410p (+15p)
Com Union	669p (+23p)
HTV Group	376p (+11p)
Tottenham Hot	376p (+11p)
Accident	739p (+14p)
Airtours	606p (+13p)
FALLS:	
Cohen (AI)	370p (145p)
Airflow Stream	185p (70p)
Home Counties	217p (10p)
Rolle & Nolan	367p (10p)
Daniels Sys	617p (10p)
Base	755p (10p)
ICI	824p (11p)

COMMODITIES

COCA	1000-1004
Dec	1000-1004
Mar	1000-1004
Jul	1000-1004
Oct	1000-1004
Dec	1000-1004
Mar	1000-1004
Jul	1000-1004
Oct	1000-1004
Dec	1000-1004
Mar	1000-1004
Jul	1000-1004
Oct	1000-1004

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (Brent)	23.05
Dec	23.05
Mar	23.05
Jul	23.05
Oct	23.05
Dec	23.05
Mar	23.05
Jul	23.05
Oct	23.05

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (WTI)	22.50
Dec	22.50
Mar	22.50
Jul	22.50
Oct	22.50
Dec	22.50
Mar	22.50
Jul	22.50
Oct	22.50

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (WTI)	22.50
Dec	22.50
Mar	22.50
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COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (WTI)	22.50
Dec	22.50
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Jul	22.50
Oct	22.50
Dec	22.50
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Jul	22.50
Oct	22.50

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (WTI)	22.50
Dec	22.50
Mar	22.50
Jul	22.50
Oct	22.50
Dec	22.50
Mar	22.50
Jul	22.50
Oct	22.50

TEMPUS

Wait for Rewards

J SAINSBURY'S interim results due to be published at the end of this month, are likely to make grim reading, just like its last set of full-year figures.

The price war being waged on petrol station forecourts up and down the land has meant all retailers of petrol have been losing money in the past few months, after making very healthy profits on it just a year ago. Moreover, the cost of launching Sainsbury's Reward loyalty card will appear in the first half, putting a sizeable dent in profits.

The key factor will be how well Sainsbury supermarket sales have been going in Britain. The presumption, based on market share data produced by the food retailing industry, is that they have been poor in comparison with its direct competitors.

If this turns out to be true, then it will be very bad news for the company. It will not, however, signal its inexorable decline.

The second half of this year should turn out to be less traumatic for Sainsbury's balance sheet. The petrol price war appears to have run out of steam for the time being and Tesco's recently launched price campaign seems to be having little effect on the other leading supermarket groups.

In the longer term, Sainsbury has some advantages over its rivals: it has a successful American supermarket division, with room for significant expansion, and its do-it-yourself operations are expected to show a strong recovery in the second half.

This week's drop in Sainsbury's share price may have been justified by short-term worries, but, in the longer term, it looks at this stage to have been overdone.

the mature UK market in the Far East and the US, while ground handling, the newer division formed after the acquisition last year of DynAir, also offers expansion prospects as more airlines contract out activities such as baggage handling.

There is also the possibility of a takeover bid, which could propel Alpha sky-

wards. Granada, which inherited Fort's 25 per cent stake in Alpha, is expected to sell it, and potential bidders such as Lufthansa, SAS and Odeon are periodically tipped to be interested. Analysts have cut the full-year forecast for Alpha to about £22 million reflecting catering by the shares are worth hanging on to.

Yesterday's figures showing an 11 per cent slide in profits confirmed the competitiveness in catering. Airlines cutting costs spend less on feeding passengers leaving Alpha to compete for lower-margin business.

Selling the loss-making US business will ease some of the pressure. With the right offer, the sale of catering is a possibility.

Retailing offers a brighter outlook, in particular outside

rose 0.2 per cent in September, less than the 0.3 per cent in August, although the consumer price index net Wednesday will be keenly awaited. US retail sales, also announced yesterday, rose 0.7 per cent in September.

So far so good but investors should remain aware of the damage that could be caused by any inflationary shocks.

Campbell & Armstrong

GIVEN the scale of the problems facing newly appointed chairman Michael Rendle when he climbed into the hot seat at Campbell & Armstrong in January, it is probably no surprise that it took him nine months to complete its financial restructuring.

In the space of just two months from November the company lost its chief executive, finance director and chairman. In January, administrative receivers were wheeled in to its loss-

making contracting arm, Irwin, and on August 1, its shares were suspended.

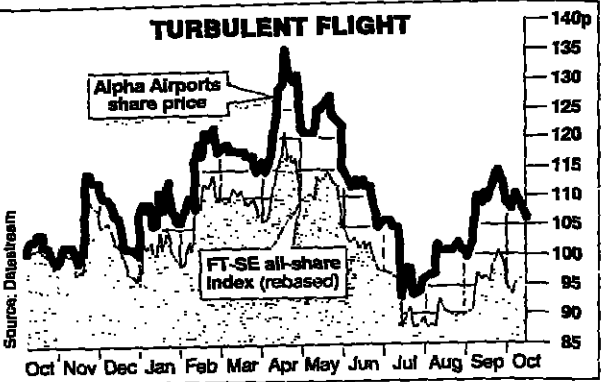
The interim accounts for the six months to July 31 showed net liabilities increasing to £2.08 million and borrowings up to £7.86 million.

If yesterday's combination of a placing, open offer, debt reorganisation and capital reduction had already gone through at July 31, that picture would have changed dramatically, showing bank borrowings, net of cash of £1.72 million, at £1.07 million and net assets of £4.7 million.

The company has made it clear that it is likely to go under if the proposals are rejected. At least one major shareholder is considering its position but managing director David Emslie is, not surprisingly, confident.

With a reported upturn in shopping sales in the second half, the company may now be turning the corner.

With the shares closing at 6p today, the market is prepared to wait and see.



COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (Brent)	23.05
Dec	23.05
Mar	23.05
Jul	23.05
Oct	23.05
Dec	23.05
Mar	23.05
Jul	23.05
Oct	23.05

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (WTI)	22.50
Dec	22.50
Mar	22.50
Jul	22.50
Oct	22.50
Dec	22.50
Mar	22.50
Jul	22.50
Oct	22.50

COMMODITIES

CRUDE OILS (WTI)	22.50
Dec	22.50
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Oct	22.50
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Mar	22.50
Jul	22.50
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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996



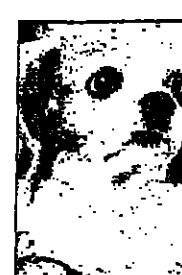
CARING COVER 33

Insurance can ease burden of illness

WEEKEND MONEY

PETS AND VETS 37

Eye on costs to cover the family menagerie



Sweeteners can leave a bitter taste

Marianne Curphey asks who really reaps the benefits from shareholder perks

There are 10,000 people in Britain who can cross the Channel any time they like, as often as they like, completely free of charge. Indirectly, though, they have paid a high price for the privilege.

These people are Eurotunnel's shareholders. Most of them have relatively small holdings, and if they bought their shares at launch in 1987 and are still holding them, they will have seen the value fall by around 70 per cent.

To make their holding worthwhile they would have needed to make 50 return trips on Eurotunnel in the past two years. By any standards that is a lot of travelling. About 140,000 more shareholders have limited travel concessions.

This week a proposed £4.7 billion agreement to rebuild Eurotunnel's finances was put forward by the company's management. Shareholders have yet to vote on it, but they will be unlikely to enjoy any dividends until 2005 or 2006. Shares were suspended at 112.5p at the end of September and after trading resumed on Tuesday they fell to 93p. They are now trading at around 98p. Some in the City are warning that further restructuring may be necessary in the future.

According to Justin Urquhart Stewart of Barclays

Stockbrokers, this demonstrates why, with a few exceptions, no one should buy shares just for the perks. "If you live within ten miles of Dover and commute to Calais on private business, or your family lives there, it might be worthwhile," he says. "Otherwise, perks are the icing on the cake."

Anyone who bought more than 1,500 Eurotunnel shares during the first issue in 1987 or the second issue in 1990 — but not the rights issue of 1994 — would have been rewarded with the option of unlimited travel on Eurotunnel. The travel perks last for as long as Eurotunnel is the operator for the Channel Tunnel. At present, that concession runs until 2022. The vast majority of Eurotunnel's 150,000 British and 600,000 French investors have travel perks.

Mr Urquhart Stewart believes that more and more companies will offer shareholder perks in the future to gain their loyalty and to encourage them to spend more on their products.

He says: "When Somersetfield planned its flotation this summer it cleverly put application forms for shares near the checkouts in its supermarkets. If people buy shares, they are less likely to go elsewhere for their groceries because they have a personal interest in the

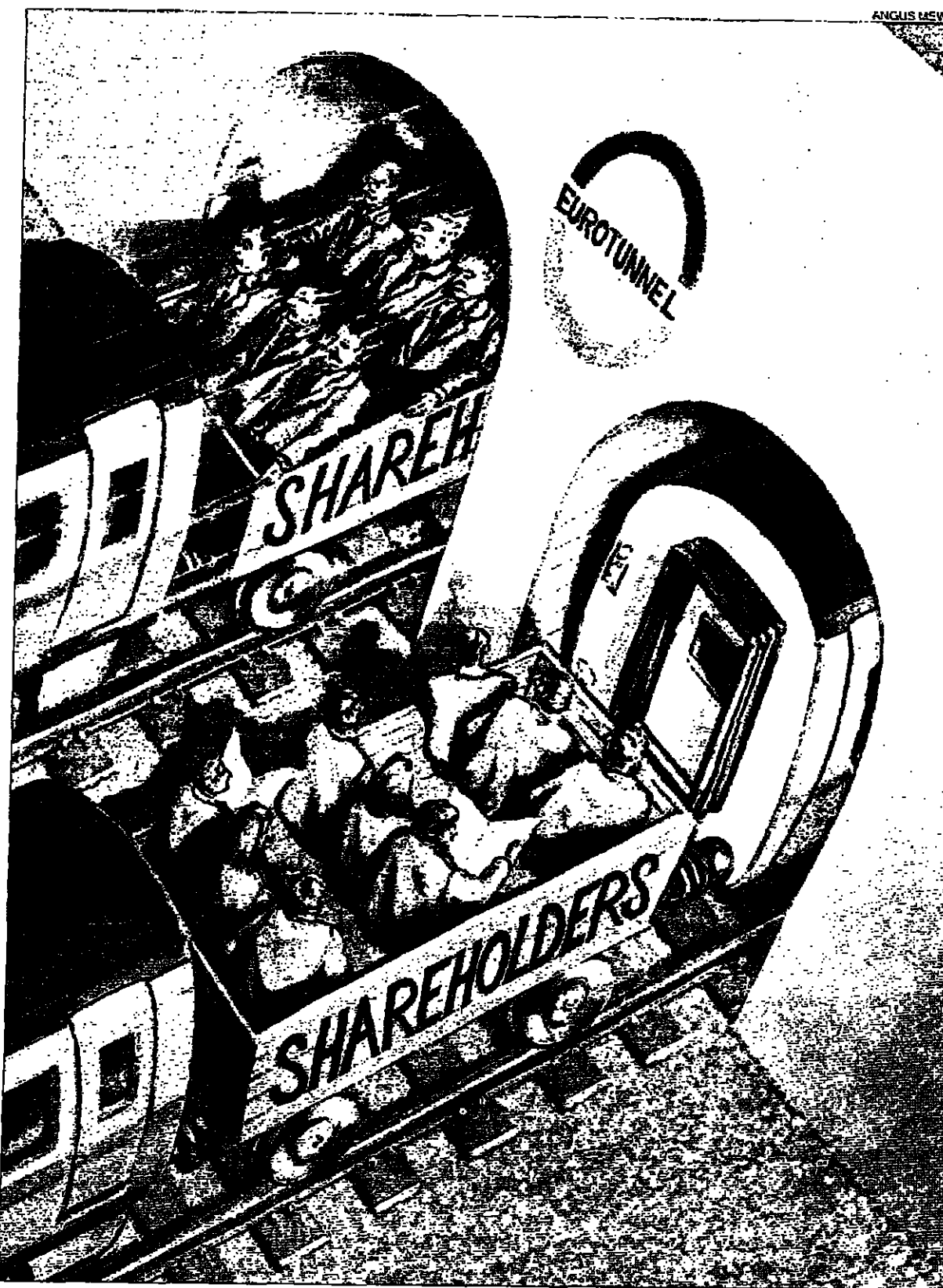
fortunes of the company." He predicts that British Airways will offer better discounts and travel concessions to its shareholders to persuade them to travel by BA.

"In the past, companies have used perks as a sweetener, to keep shareholders quiet. Over the next few years they will be developed as strategic marketing tools to create a club atmosphere and encourage long-term shareholding," he says. "For example, Whitbread might introduce a card giving shareholders discounts right across its range of leisure facilities."

Despite the potential marketing benefits, some companies refuse to grant perks to anyone who is not on the shareholder register.

This means that anyone who has a nominee account through a broker is banned from receiving these benefits, even if the broker is prepared to collect them on his or her behalf.

The companies involved are: Argos, Barrett Developments, BP, Bulmers, Burton, Eurotunnel, General Accident, Gieves Group, Hollas Group, Lex Service, Lookers, Next, P&O, Psion, Sears and Toys & Co.



Eurotunnel shareholders needed to make 50 return trips in the past two years to make their holding worthwhile

Perks add to shares' appeal

Sharelink, the execution-on-broker, has urged companies which at present give per-

only to those shareholders on a register to review this policy (Marianne Curphey writes). Emma Kar Sharelink spokeswoman, said: "A few did change their mind, and still are working on the others."

P&O is one of the organisations which currently refuses to allow people with nominee accounts benefit from perks, yet P&O's travel concessions for shareholders are regarded as the best in the market. Depending on your holding, you can claim up to 50 per cent discount on Dover-Calais and Felixstowe-Zebrugge crossings, and 40 per cent on the Portsmouth-Cherbourg route.

Clothing retailers also give generous perks. Laura Ashley issues a shareholders with discount vouchers, and Austin Reed a discount card giving 15 per cent off all menswear and women's wear. Next gives a 2 per cent discount voucher against a purchase made on one occasion from a branch, and Sears gives 1 per cent off most goods in shops catalogues.

Meanwhile, the hotel group Queens Moat Houses will give a 3 per cent discount on Weekend Break prices to investors with 1,000 shares or more. Friendly Hotels gives a 1 per cent discount on accommodation. Berisford shareholders can buy Magnet kitchen and bedroom items at half price.

If you invest in a holiday company, there are special deals on their own packages. British Airways 1 well known for the 10 per cent travel discount it offers shareholders and three immediate family members. Airtrics gives 10 per cent off the published price of any of its holiday packages booked through its Shareholder Holiday Advice line.

Barclays Stockbrokers (0800 55 1 77) has a free booklet detailing all benefits offered by companies, and the amount of shares needed to secure them.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Bad business for annuities

Caroline Merrell explains why

Poorer pensions for those retiring in the final months of this year will be the result of an increase in sales at life-insurance companies, where turnover has been boosted by soaring markets.

One of the industry's responses to this reversal in its fortunes has been to decrease the rates offered on retirement annuities — many have done as much annuity business as they would like already this year, and are no longer interested in offering the most competitive rates.

Annuity rates have fallen about 2.5 per cent since the beginning of September. Anyone with a personal pension must, by law, use 75 per cent of the proceeds to buy an annuity from which their pension will

be paid. Billy Burrows, director of Annuity Direct, a financial adviser specialising in annuities, said: "These falls have been expected for some time — rates have been protected by companies competing for business over the summer period."

Annuities are one of the most overlooked areas of pension planning. It is no good building up a healthy retirement fund, only to choose an annuity which pays a low level of income. All those retiring with any sort of pension fund, whether a pool of money generated through an additional voluntary contribution plan, a personal pension plan

or the precursor to a personal pension, an S26 plan, can opt for an annuity from any company. Instead, most choose to take out the product offered by the company they have their pension with. As the table on page 28 shows, choosing a good annuity over a bad one can make a difference of thousands of pounds.

To make matters more confusing, three distinct types of annuity are now available. The first is a conventional annuity. Your accumulated pension fund is exchanged for a guaranteed level of income with income set when the annuity is purchased. If the pensioner dies, the pension

stops, unless a widow or widower's pension has been specifically allocated. The conventional annuity obviously exposes the retired person to risks from inflation. Some companies will offer annuities linked to the inflation rate; indexation will result in a lower annual pension.

More recently, the industry has allowed more flexible annuities. The second type, the phased retirement annuity, divides an individual's pension fund into segments. These are encashed at different times up to age 75. The encashed segments comprise tax-free cash and money to purchase an annuity.

Phased retirement will give the pensioner some protection against inflation as he or she is

Continued on page 28, col 6

Tax breaks yes, abuses no

Better late than never. This week Kenneth Clarke finally closed the gross-dividend loophole. Had he followed the advice whispered in this column last November, he would have ended the worst abuse — the use of special dividends in takeovers — in his 1995 Budget. Since then, about £1.7 billion more has been paid out, plus £3 billion in selective share buybacks, charging taxpayers about £1 billion.

That cash was no boon to private investors and was giving pension funds a bad name. City brains devised a way to make taxpayers fund part of the cost of takeover bids. But this gave more money to pension funds than to others.

Many bids included a special dividend from the target company straight after it was taken over. Pension funds and charities, which are not liable to tax on dividends, could claim £1 from the Revenue for every £4 of "dividend". So could individuals with too little income to pay tax, but they would probably not have to pay tax on capital gains. Some higher-rate taxpayers would have to pay extra on the dividend but set capital gains against their tax allowance.

Takeover bids always affect people differently according to their tax status. But dividend-bolstered bids were deliberately engineered — and advertised — to give more to gross funds than other shareholders. Adding to the insult, these dividends featured in bids for companies with lots of small shareholders, such as TSB and electricity distributors.

By design, investors were treated differently. The first rule of the City Takeover Code says that they must be

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

treated equally. The Takeover Panel failed to act. This should be remembered when the City pleads to keep the self-policing panel system rather than move to Europe-wide takeover rules.

Share buybacks, which are also taxed partly as distributions, had a subtler effect. Companies bought only from big funds, incidentally annoying charities and smaller funds that were left out. They got a premium over the market price, met by taxpayers. But any rise in earnings per share on reduced capital was potentially good for all. Fewer buybacks will be justified in future.

The change, which stops gross funds claiming dividend tax back, should not affect genuine special dividends paid to all. These are healthy, for instance when a company sells part of its business and does not want to invest in something it knows little about just for the sake of it. These payouts may be less appealing. To cover schemes such as the one devised for Reuters, the ruling also hits any

special dividend that goes hand in hand with a cut in nominal capital. Such consolidations aim to keep earnings per share up, kidding investors that they can eat a slice of cake and leave it intact.

Finance directors claim that small investors will not understand or forgive sharp falls in earnings the year after loads of cash is paid out. That may be true. They could try offering the Revenue some other form of words that leaves them free to play around with their capital while stopping companies from diverting cash to gross funds that can claim money from taxpayers.

Experience suggests, however, that the fund managers who have driven companies to exploit these loopholes are far more obsessed with smooth growth of reported earnings. Private investors know the world is not like that. The gross dividend scandal shows how blinkered City thinking, in the long run, can hurt the very people it aims to help.

Millions of pension fund members are paper losers from the Chancellor's spoilsport tactics. In reality, we should wish he had acted faster. More than ever, pension funds need tax breaks, both to persuade people decades from retirement to lock away their savings and to deliver decent pensions. These privileges depend on general consent. If that is lost, tax-hungry Chancellors will raid them, as Norman Lamont did in 1993, to raise cash the easy way. Perceived abuses give ammunition to pensioners' enemies. Behind the smiling faces, there are more of those than you think.

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Question of Money: Fiona Bawdon on a fresh tack on legal aid

New brand of justice

Q How do "no win, no fee" arrangements work?

A The proper term for them is conditional fees. To call them "no win, no fee" is somewhat misleading as you may still end up having to pay a big legal bill if you lose. In this country the loser has to pay the winning side's legal costs, which may be substantial. With a conditional fee arrangement your own solicitor will waive his costs if you lose but unless it is used in conjunction with after-the-event insurance (see below) you would still have to pay the other side's solicitors bill. If you win, you will have to pay your solicitor a success fee which can be up to double his normal fee. The level of success fee should reflect the level of risk involved. For example, the tobacco litigation will be breaking new legal ground and is therefore extremely speculative. The solicitors in this case are charging the maximum 100 per cent success fee. With smaller, more certain cases, a lower success fee would probably be appropriate. Whatever level of success fee is agreed, don't sign a conditional fee agreement unless your solicitor imposes a cap on the level of damages that can be eaten up in his fees. The Law Society recommends one of 25 per cent.

Q When can conditional fees be used?

A At the moment, conditional fees are only



Marlboro, the US tobacco giant, is being sued by the widow of one of its models. She claims its cigarettes gave him cancer

allowed for personal injury, insolvency, and human rights cases. It is likely, however, that they will be extended to other types of civil litigation.

Q What is "after the event" insurance?

A "After the event" insurance protects a losing party from having to pay the other side's legal bills. It is designed specifically to be used in conjunction with conditional fees. The Law Society has approved a scheme called "accident line protects" which is available only through specialised personal injury firms. ALP costs

The news that a group of 40 lung cancer victims is to sue two leading tobacco companies on a "no win, no fee" basis has reawakened interest in this relatively new approach to funding legal action. Conditional fees, as they are called, were introduced in July 1995. So far more than 12,000 people have signed up. Most will be straightforward personal injury cases — people suing for work injuries or in a road accident.

Conditional fees are increasingly being seen as an alternative to legal aid. The ex-smokers turned to this method of funding after legal aid was withdrawn because the board that administers legal aid didn't think they would win. The approach is often used by people whose income is too high to qualify for legal aid but too low to fund a case themselves. Only around 50 per cent of the population now qualifies for legal aid.

cases — where somebody has been injured during the course of medical treatment — which are notoriously expensive and difficult to bring, is expected to be launched soon.

Q How do conditional fees differ from US-style contingency fees?

A In the US, law firms can charge a percentage of the successful client's eventual damage, typically around 30 per cent. This means that firms can sometimes end up with millions and millions of dollars in big cases. In this country the amount of damages won has no bearing on how much the solicitor gets. Instead his success fee is linked to his normal charging levels, plus an uplift for having run the risk of not getting paid at all. The other big difference is that in the US there is no loser pays rule. Each side pays its own costs regardless of the outcome of the case — so there is no need for "after the event" insurance.

£85 for £100,000 worth of insurance. It generally covers mainstream personal injury cases only. "After the event" insurance is not generally available for cases which are thought to be particularly risky, or complicated. For example, the litigants in the smoking case are uninsured. In theory, they are risking bankruptcy if they lose. In reality, however, they are banking on the fact that the tobacco companies won't be hard-hearted

enough to chase cancer victims for costs. (The companies may well, however, try to get the case thrown out altogether because of their opponents' lack of funds). However, some observers predict that it is only a matter of time before insurance cover becomes available for this kind of ground-breaking case. Although the "after the event" market is only a year old, there have already been significant developments. Cover for medical negligence

Bad business for annuities

RATES AS OF OCTOBER 4, 1996		
Single Life Guarantee 5 monthly in advance Level £50,000		
COMPANY		RATE
1 Sun Life of Canada		£5,580.55
2 Equitable Life		£5,573.80
3 Generali		£4,450.00
4 Standard Assurance		£5,240.00
5 Canada Life		£5,533.80
Joint Life 50% Guarantee 5 monthly in advance Level £50,000		
1 Britannia Life		£4,782.20
2 Sun Alliance		£4,670.40
3 Scottish Amicable		£4,614.60
4 Scottish Equitable		£4,610.40
5 Scottish Mutual		£4,608.55

RATES AS OF AUGUST 30, 1996		
Single Life Guarantee 5 monthly in advance Level £50,000		
COMPANY		RATE
1 Prudential		£5,896.40
2 Sun Life of Canada		£5,690.35
3 Generali		£5,625.05
4 Norwich Union		£5,604.60
5 Standard Life		£5,594.00
Joint Life 50% Guarantee 5 monthly in advance Level £50,000		
1 Sun Alliance		£4,786.40
2 Britannia Life		£4,782.20
3 Scottish Amicable		£4,614.60
4 Scottish Equitable		£4,610.40
5 Scottish Mutual		£4,608.55

Continued from page 27
not using the entire fund to purchase a pension at a single moment in time. The annuity rates will vary according to prevailing interest rates. The third type is the drawdown annuity where the pension-fund money is invested until a propor-

tion is needed to buy a guaranteed income. The theory is that you can benefit from any further growth in the pension fund, and can also choose to encash more when rates are more advantageous. But, leaving your pension fund money invested in the stock market is a risk.

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ECB2



Join the queue: Norwich Union endowment policies were among the most eagerly hunted

Secondary market is alive and kicking

The growth in the market for second-hand endowment policies is unlikely to be checked by the announcement of Norwich Union's move to plc status.

The news, which was expected, meant those who had bought an endowment policy before October 1, either through the insurer or through the secondary market, will receive free shares in the reorganised company. The sum will hinge on the size and duration of the policy. The average payout to members in general is expected to be £500.

The possibility of insurers being taken over or shedding their mutual status like this has helped to push the trading of second-hand endowments to record levels, with Norwich Union policies among the most eagerly hunted.

Traditionally, if a policyholder couldn't afford to continue paying the premiums, they would have surrendered the policy to the issuing life office, getting back only a small proportion of what the investment would have been worth on maturity. But with the development of a secondary arena for buying and selling second-hand policies, the sums that could be raised increased significantly — between 10 per cent and 15 per cent is possible — as market forces came into play.

Last year, £150 million of policies were traded, compared to £5 million five years ago. This year, demand was greatly increased for two reasons: the arrival of matured Tessa money looking for a new home, and the chance of a demutualisation or takeover windfall.

The "carpetbagging" was done more on an institutional basis rather than by private investors — putting £100 into a building society on a speculative basis is quite different from putting tens of thousands into an endowment policy.

If someone were to buy a with-profits policy speculatively, they would have to be very careful because the perfor-

Adam Jones

on why sales of surrendered endowments will flourish

mance of the underlying funds can vary hugely from company to company. Your terminal payment could suffer and the gap could be much more than the sums produced by an unearned mid-policy windfall.

The institutional interest saw an investment trust — the Life Office Opportunities Trust — set up specifically to buy policies from companies likely to pay one of these bonuses. However, the surging demand led to something of a logjam in the first half of the year, with traded policy prices rising 10 per cent from December 1995 to the end of May 1996, according to one estimate. The increase led Max Rosen, head of Securi-

date is not yet decided. Undoubtedly, the worst course of action would be for someone to surrender their policy to the life office before the vote. They would be getting an uncompetitive return on the original investment while also throwing away their stake of the windfall shares.

If with-profits policyholders are certain to satisfy the relevant criteria — if their endowment policy has several years to run, for instance, and they were in possession on October 1 — they are in a much stronger position than building society members waiting for a payout. This is because the endowment policies can be sold before the vote, without the holder's membership being compromised. They will still receive the shares.

That, and the fact that Norwich Union policies are often very competitive, should ensure that trading won't tail off. And there are plenty of other life offices tipped for takeover or demutualisation — including Scottish Amicable, Scottish Life, Scottish Provident, Friends Provident and

Speculators need to be careful — large sums are involved

tised Endowment Contracts, a market-maker, to suggest prices were too high.

The Norwich Union announcement will mean its policies will no longer be the target of speculative trading. To qualify for a share payment, policyholders had to be in possession at midnight on October 1, 1996, so the door has been closed on any slow-moving carpetbaggers who wanted a piece of the action.

But these superficially eligible policyholders could trip up on one clause. The policy cannot be eligible for a full share of the dividend if it expires before the members vote on the proposed change to the insurer's status. The ballot

Scottish Widows — to ensure that turnover will remain high.

Christopher Dobie, of Beale Dobie, the market-makers, believes that the turnover of traded policies could exceed £200 million this year, compared to a previous estimate of £175 million. But he says policies worth £500 million a year are still being surrendered directly to life offices, providing plenty of room for further expansion of trading. Mr Dobie says the possibility of a bonus has not affected the price of traded policies because it is impossible to predict how much any shareout would be worth. Any projected value simply is not factored in.



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Losers in the lottery

Tonight millions will await the outcome of the 100th National Lottery draw. The disappointment felt by those whose numbers are not read out by beaming Bob Monkhouse will be tempered by the knowledge that their luck might be better next week.

Those who lose out in the annuity lottery have no such consolation. They have unwittingly entered a game of chance where the already unfavourable odds can be further manipulated to the disadvantage of the player. The system does not allow replays.

Those with personal pensions must, on retirement, buy an annuity from which their pension will be paid. Immediately they are in double jeopardy, for the deal they receive will depend not only on whether they are well-informed enough to shop around, but also on the general level of interest rates.

Now, as we report on page 27, it emerges that the fate of the personal pension plan holder is also subject to the whims of marketing men at life insurers. Sales of pensions and other policies

have been so good this year that some companies have taken the view that they do not need annuity business and have dropped their rates to deter purchasers.

Any company taking this view ought to be obliged to tell its own personal pension customers that they could do better with one of its competitors. But, sadly for anyone retiring between now and Christmas, no such rule exists.

Tax report

ELIZABETH FILKIN, the Inland Revenue Adjudicator, is proving herself to be a feisty consumer champion, fearless in the defence of the taxpayer. This week, in her third report, she accused the tax authorities of "incompetence, insensitivity and indifference".

Her stance should provide some reassurance to the millions now faced with the rigours of the self-assessment system, with its draconian deadlines and steep penalties for late returns.

For as long as tax inspectors believe that their job means never having to say they're sorry, we will need Mrs Filkin.

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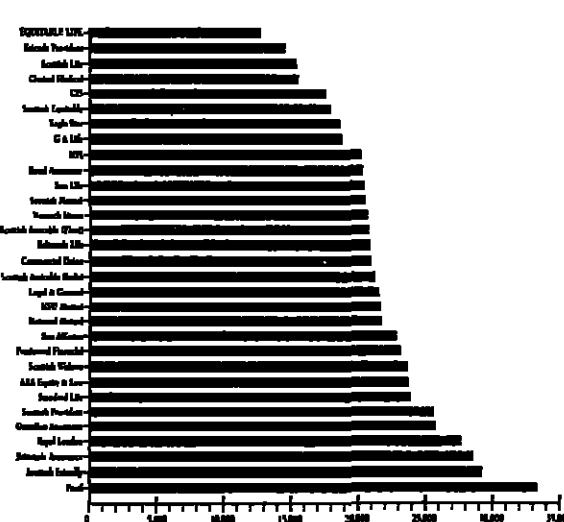
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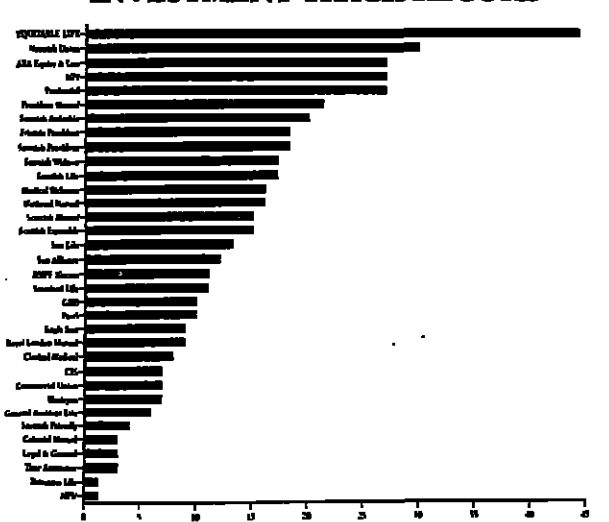
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Source: Financial Services Authority surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, 1974-1996

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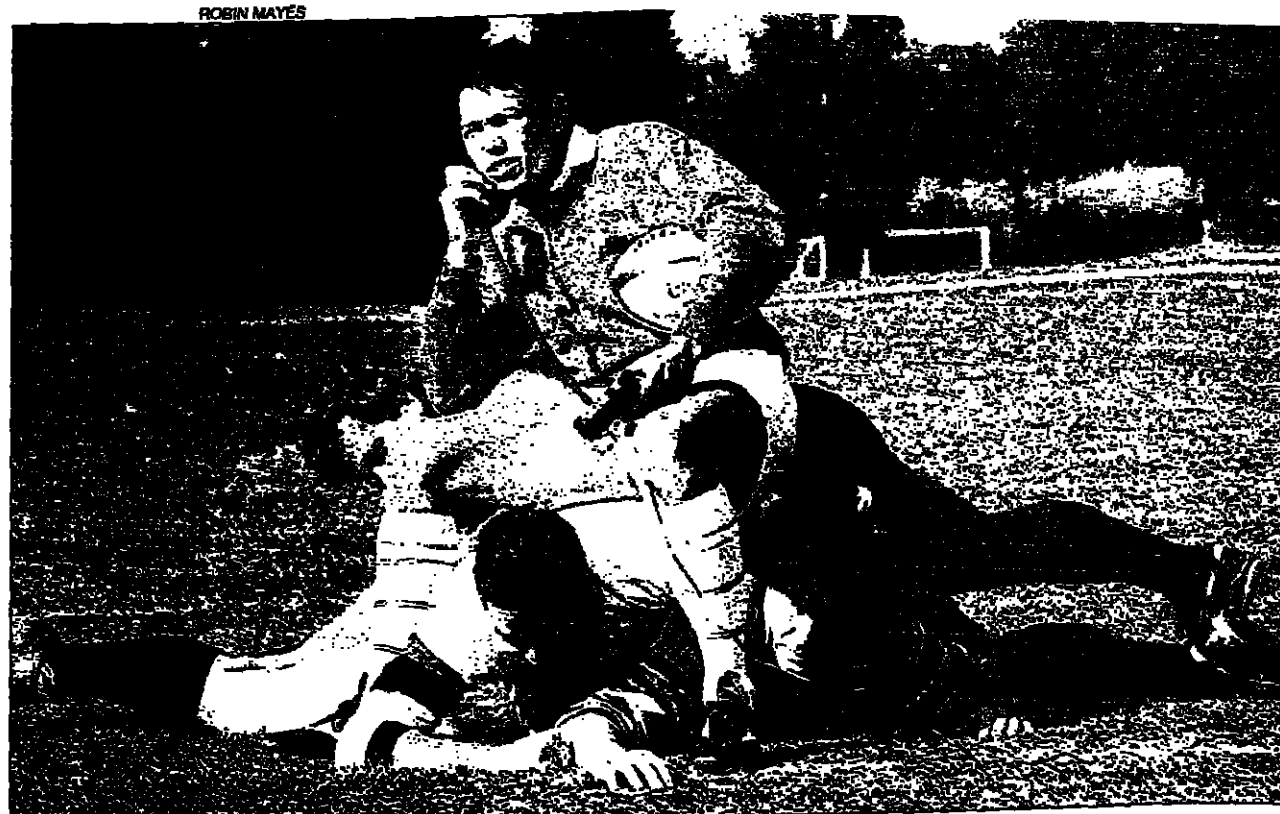
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On the ball: Rory Underwood, England rugby international, helps Virgin Direct demonstrate the need for insurance

The game of international rugby carries with it a multitude of risks. A player could break an arm, a leg, or even his neck. However, the level of risk is identifiable and quantifiable. Most insurers would be able to devise a premium which adequately reflects any danger to the player.

For most other people though, the propensity for falling prey to or dying from a serious disease is less easy to analyse. Life insurance companies ask prospective clients a series of questions about their age, occupation, lifestyle, family, and medical history. From this they can calculate a premium which will adequately reflect the risk involved.

However, over the last few years, a more highly tuned tool has become available, which will allow doctors to predict who is going to get what disease. Genetic testing is now already carried out for a number of life-threatening diseases such as Huntington's and cystic fibrosis.

Testing to pinpoint the likelihood of getting certain diseases such as breast cancer or heart disease is still in its infancy as a diagnostic tool. However, its usefulness in underwriting in life insurance cannot be ignored, especially as competition between companies over rates begins to increase. Independent financial advisers claim that rates are already beginning to fall because of the arrival of direct insurers such as Direct Line and Virgin Direct.

A tool which could definitely knock out high-risk lives could be even more useful for insurers in the rates war. Next

month, the Association of British Insurers will produce guidelines about how genetic information should be used.

Standard Life, the UK's biggest insurer, has already pre-empted publication of the guidelines by stating that it will not force people to disclose the results of genetic tests when taking out term assurance to cover a mortgage.

Peter Robertson, Standard Life assistant general manager, said: "Having to divulge the results of genetic tests causes some concern both to the applicant and to the medical profession. Some people may be put off such tests for fear that they become uninsurable if the results show a disease."

Rowan Gormley, Virgin Direct managing director, believes genetic testing will not have much impact on rates. He said: "It will not increase competition, because true competition does not exist in the market place at the moment." He highlights the difference between the rates

offered by the top and bottom performing companies.

According to the financial adviser, Term Direct, the lowest term insurance premiums for a 32-year-old non-smoking male requiring £100,000 of cover were offered by Virgin Direct, Legal & General, Norwich Union, Allied Dunbar and Scottish Mutual. Rates were between £15.67 and £17.15. The most expensive companies were Clerical Medical, Scottish Amicable, Lloyds Bank, Friends Provident and Swiss Life. Rates at this end of the spectrum were between £24.32 and £32.

Others believe that testing could eventually lead to sections of the population becoming uninsurable.

The Government, geneticists and the medical lobby are trying to hammer out a way of treating information before genetic testing becomes more prevalent for controlling certain disorders. If the industry does not create a suitable system, then the Government

can legislate to prevent the companies having any access at all to the results.

Last year, the select committee on science and technology debated the use of genetic testing. The committee initially wanted life insurance companies not to have any access to genetic information. However, it eventually accepted the view that companies should be protected against people who find they have high-risk genes, then over-insure themselves but withhold the genetic information from the life insurer.

Paul Cooper, Mercantile & General Reinsurance chief underwriter, said: "It should not be seen as different from any other sort of information. It will just identify who is more at risk."

The Association of British Insurers is lobbying for accessibility to genetic information, but it insists that the life companies have no plans to ask potential policy holders to take genetic tests before they take out a policy.

The Genetic Interest Group, an umbrella organisation representing those with genetic disorders, is willing to concede that companies should have access to information, but believes policy holders should be given detailed reasons why they face loaded premiums, and should be able to appeal. John Gillott, policy officer, said: "Insurance companies will behave like insurance companies. They are commercial organisations, and do not want any regulation of their accessibility to information."

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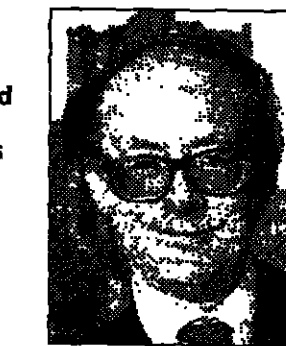
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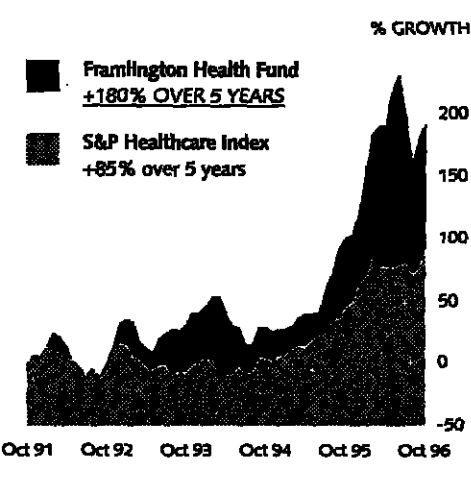
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Paragon of virtue suffers blind spot



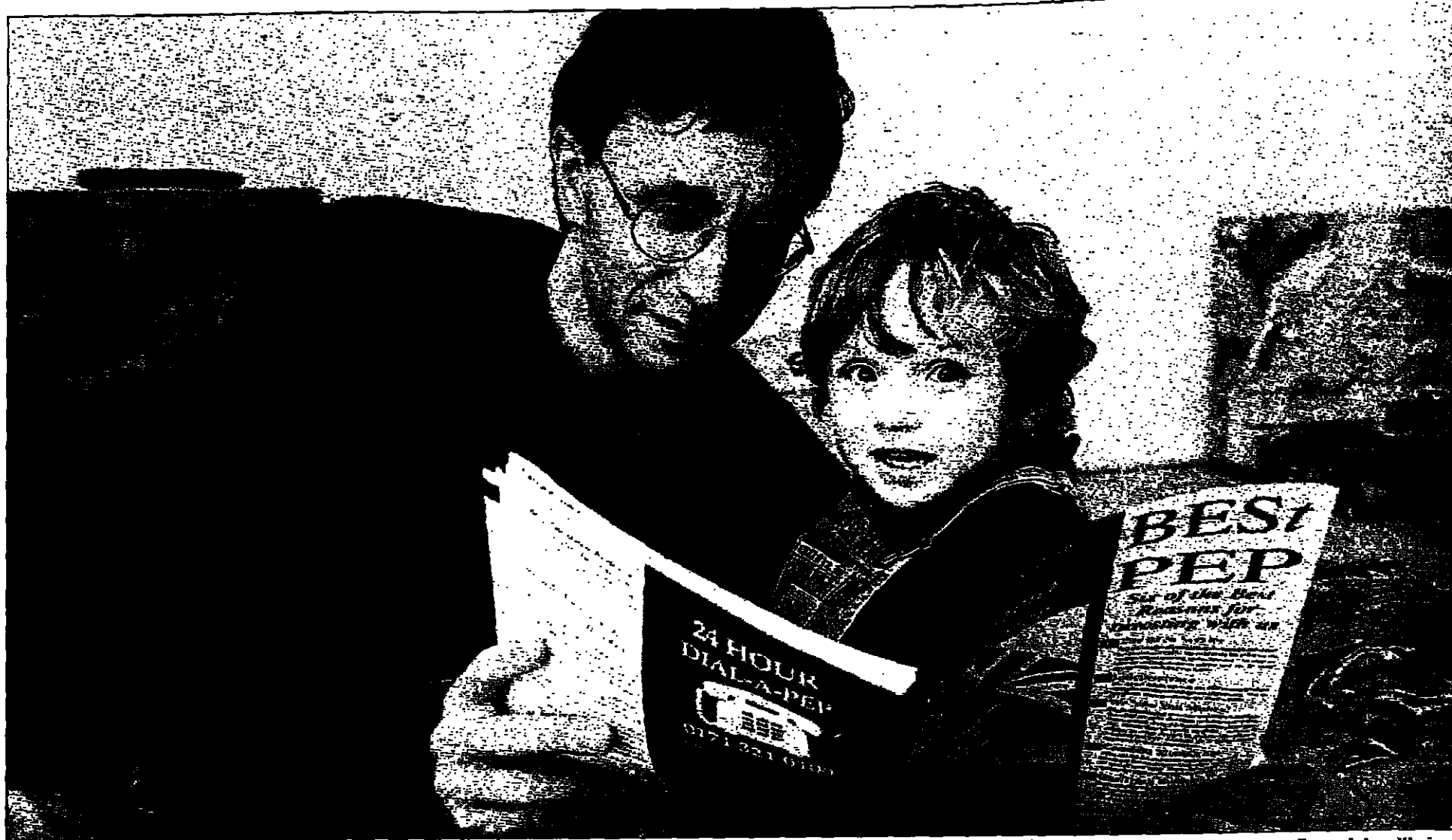
Fiona Bawdon on the need for careful planning to ensure family security

AT FIRST glance, sending 35-year-old Steve Halstead for a Weekend Money makeover is a bit like suggesting Coco Chanel might have needed the services of an image consultant.

Mr Halstead is in an enviable financial situation, achieved largely through his own financial acumen and planning. He has a well-paid job as a manager with a major UK company, where he has worked for the last ten years. His total salary package, which includes various bonuses and generous perks, comes to more than £30,000. Out of this he manages to save at least

£5,000 a year ("I'm too busy working to spend any money"). He holds around £10,000 worth of shares in the company for which he works — acquired at preferential rates over the years — and also has substantial savings.

Mr Halstead and his partner, a freelance writer, have an £80,000 mortgage on a house worth nearly double that amount. Later this year, when the mortgage reverts from a fixed rate to a variable rate, he intends to use some of his savings to reduce the loan by about half. He has no overdraft and no credit card debts.



Pep talk: Steve Halstead enlists the help of his three-year-old son, Joe, as he looks over the investment options available to make sure of his family's long-term financial wellbeing

Mark Bolland, an independent financial adviser at Chamberlain de Broe, described Mr Halstead as exceptionally financially astute. What, then, is such a paragon of financial virtue doing sitting in Mr Bolland's office for a money makeover? The answer is that Mr Halstead is astute enough to know that even the most financially sophisticated may have a blind spot — which, in his case, could have potentially disastrous consequences.

Mr Halstead and his partner have a three-year-old son, Joe, and a second baby due at Christmas. What he does not have, however, is any life insurance — apart from a Standard Life endowment, which would pay off half the current mortgage in the event of his death. "It's not an area I know anything about," said Mr Halstead. He had always assumed that his savings and investments of around £60,000 and his company death-in-service benefit of three times his salary "would leave a fairly substantial amount".

However, it soon started to appear rather less substantial under Mr Bolland's

scrutiny. Mr Bolland calculated that the endowment, savings and company benefit would provide a total of a little more than £200,000. Once the £80,000 mortgage was paid off, this would leave £145,000. "That sort of money invested would generate £5,500 to £6,000 a year gross," said Mr Bolland. "In a true widows and orphans situation you wouldn't normally try to generate a return of more than 5 to 6 per cent because the money has to be protected."

Mr Bolland added that, because the couple are not married, Mr Halstead's partner might not qualify for a state widows pension. Although the DSS can use its discretion, there is no guarantee she would receive anything. "If she won't definitely get it, you have to plan on the basis that she wouldn't," says Mr Bolland.

Would Mr Halstead be happy about leaving his young family with an income of around only £6,000 a year? If not, life insurance should be a priority. The cheapest option would be a ten-year convertible term policy. Around £200,000 worth of cover — which would pay out on

the death of Mr Halstead or his partner — would cost less than £50 a month. Mr Halstead's situation highlights the nebulous legal status of couples who are not married. While there is nothing he and his partner can do about the idiosyncrasies of the DSS, they have protected themselves to a large extent by having wills that leave everything to each other.

Mr Bolland said that the foresight to

Responsibility for a wife and children means that quality life insurance should be a priority

make wills is rare for people in their thirties. He admits: "When I was in the Civil Service 12 or 13 years ago, we were given a lecture on the importance of making a will. I finally got around to making mine about six weeks ago."

It seems that people still have an unshakeable faith in the idea of common law marriage and the myth that once couples have cohabited for a certain

amount of time they automatically acquire the same rights as married couples — they don't. Without a will, Mr Halstead's partner would have no automatic claim on his estate, regardless of the length of time they had lived together or the number of their children.

Falling under a bus is not, however, the only eventuality which Mr Halstead needs to plan against. The sector in which he

works is, as a whole, in the process of shedding staff. He is acutely aware that, despite a ten-year employment record, he may not be immune from such job cuts. If he were to be made redundant, it could have a dramatic impact on his financial health. He would not only lose his salary, but a shopping list of other benefits — death in service, private healthcare, income protection, final salary pension, save as

you earn schemes — which would cost several hundred pounds a month to pay for privately.

Mr Halstead does not know what he might want to do next if he left his company. He might work for another employer or possibly set up on his own. But what he does know is that he wants to organise his finances now to ensure that all his options are open in the future.

According to Mr Bolland, what he needs is a "cash cushion". Going ahead as planned and paying off around half the mortgage would go a long way to achieving this, he says. "The way house prices are going, he would be building up quite a lot of equity which he could borrow against if he wanted to set up his own business. It would reduce monthly outgoings, which could be particularly useful around the time of the birth when his partner may not be earning very much. And he could use the surplus money to start building up savings again."

The other area which Mr Halstead wanted advice about was his pension provision. Should he be paying additional

voluntary contributions (AVCs), rather than relying solely on his company's final salary scheme? Or was he right to keep putting his money — currently around £20,000 — into Peps?

Mr Bolland said that Mr Halstead's current strategy is basically sound, although when finances allow he should think about beefing up his overall pension provision. "It can be better to take a twin-track approach to retirement planning — to have two pots both performing in different ways. I'm not one of these people who says you've always got to use all your pension entitlement."

The other benefit of Peps over AVCs — even free-standing AVCs — is that they are far more flexible. With the current wave of redundancies in Mr Halstead's industry, and the possibility that he might start his own business, this flexibility could be a real advantage. Mr Bolland says: "I would have said you should look at an AVC if you had told me that until you retire or drop you were going to be a company man."

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Insurance can ease financial burden of illness, says Sarah Jones

Caring for women with cancer



Eva Herzogova is campaigning for breast cancer awareness

The sight of pink ribbons on lapels means that it's breast cancer awareness month again, the start of the annual campaign for early detection of the disease which this week will kill 300 women. As many as 26,000 women each year discover that they have the disease — and 15,000 of them die.

The campaign, which this year includes Eva Herzogova, the former Wonderbra model, as one of its supporters, it comes at a time when insurers are looking to sell ever more critical illness plans.

There are a few insurance policies which specifically cover breast cancer. LadyShield from Stuart Harvey insurance brokers pays £10,000 on diagnosis of breast or cervical cancer. There is a further £5,000 if a mastectomy is required, and £5,000 if the insured dies within a year of diagnosis. Premiums are low, ranging from £26 a year for a 30-year-old, to a maximum of £62 a year if you are over 55.

However, the policy excludes some of the most obvious candidates — women who have had two or more members of their immediate family suffer from breast or cervical cancer. Pinnacle Insurance's Viva policy pays £10,000 on diagnosis of breast or cervical cancer, with a further £6,000 spread over 12 months. Premiums range from £84 a year to £216 a year depending on age. Eligibility may be affected by a family history of breast cancer. LadyPlan, underwritten by Lloyd's of

London, offers two levels of benefit. The standard cover pays out £15,000, with a further £12,000 spread over 12 months. Premiums are from £129 a year to £372 a year. There is an additional premium for women with a family history of breast and cervical cancer. The additional premium is £144 if the relation is mother or sister, and £72 if it is an aunt or grandmother.

"Breast cancer-only policies are expensive for what they are," says Yvonne Rose of Diane Saunders, the independent financial advisers. "You would be better off paying slightly more and getting a better product; that is one that covers you for more illnesses."

Ms Rose advises a two-pronged attack in coping with serious illness: permanent health insurance (PHI) to cover loss of earnings if you need to take time off work, and critical illness insurance to cover mortgage payments, changes to accommodation or childcare costs.

Women with a family history of breast cancer may have some difficulty getting general critical illness cover. At Zurich Life, for example, your eligibility is not affected if your mother, sister or grandmother had breast cancer after the age of 50. But if two or more members of your family suffered under the age of 50, there will be a premium loading of 50 per cent. Zurich's Lifestyle Security Plan pays out £25,000 on diagnosis and, for a 35-year-old non-smoker, costs £159 a year.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Too much insurance can damage your wealth

Helen Pridham steers you past the pitfalls of having a policy too many

If you have taken out insurance to provide an income during a period of ill-health that stops you working, the last thing you want is your claim to be turned down, or cut back. But this can arise if you are held to be "overinsured" — where the benefits payable under your policy turn out to be higher than the maximum allowable percentage of your income when you come to claim.

Insurers impose this restriction to ensure that claimants still have an incentive to return to work when they recover. The issue was highlighted by the recent Office of Fair Trading report into health insurance.

If you are held to be overinsured, your benefit will be cut, which means a proportion of your premiums will have been wasted. You will have paid for benefits you cannot receive. The problem is widespread. It has been re-

ported that 30 to 40 per cent of PHI claimants have their benefits reduced to some degree for this reason.

Nowadays companies typically limit benefits to a maximum of 50 to 65 per cent of your pre-disability income, less other benefits available from employers or the state. Previously the limit was 75 per cent but after PHI benefits were made tax free in April, it was reduced. It means, for example, that if your income is currently £20,000, after the deduction of the annual single person's state incapacity benefit of around £3,000, the maximum amount of income you could insure would be 65 per cent of £17,000, that is £11,050. If your income were £18,000,

MAIN CAUSES OF PHI CLAIMS

	Male %	Female %
Musculo-skeletal (back pain, etc.)	44.0	37.0
Mental illness (including Chronic Fatigue Syndrome)	18.0	32.5
Heart Disorders and Stroke	11.5	3.5
Cancer	7.5	8.5
Neurological and Sense Organs	5.0	5.0
Other	14.0	13.5

Source: Swiss Re

your maximum benefit would reduce to £9,750.

Over-insurance can be due to several factors including over-enthusiastic salesmen, and escalating benefits, which rise faster than the policyholder's own income. However, Kevin Pearce of PHI insurer, Allied Dunbar, says: "The main problems tend to arise with the self-employed. Their earnings can fluctuate and there can also be confusion over what counts as income, their gross profits or their declared income to the taxman." The latter, which is what we have to go on, can be considerably lower than the former. Problems usually only come to light when a claim is made because it is normally only then that evidence of income must be provided.

Swiss Life is one of the few companies that asks for evidence upfront. However, after criticism in the OFT report, more insurers are considering ways of tackling over-insurance and companies like Allied Dunbar are starting to warn policyholders each year when they renew their insurance that they should review their benefits and reduce them if necessary.

Some PHI claimants do not even get a reduced benefit. It is difficult to get the exact number of claims that are turned down. But Karen

Lloyd, claims manager at Swiss Re, a leading reinsurer of PHI business, disputes the figure of 25 per cent cited in the OFT report. She says: "In our experience, around 10 per cent of claims are rejected. The main reason is non-disclosure. If it is discovered that people have deliberately withheld information about a relevant condition, then a claim will be refused. The other main reason that claims are rejected is because the disability criterion has not been met."

Most insurers define dis-

If you are held to be overinsured your benefit will be cut

ability as your total inability to follow your own occupation, others define it as your inability to follow your own occupation or "any reasonably suitable occupation".

Disputes often arise about whether a condition renders someone "totally unable" to do a job or not. Unless a condition is very serious, an insurer may argue that the policyholder can still perform certain aspects of their job. According to Ms Lloyd: "Much will depend on how fundamental to your job is the activity or activities which you no longer perform."

However, the OFT was suf-

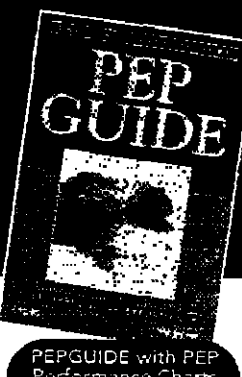
ficiently concerned about the lack of clarity that it called upon insurers to produce a standard definition of "total disability" and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) is currently working on this.

Even if your insurer accepts your claim initially, disputes may arise later. PHI is designed to tide you over until you get better and can start working again. If you do not recover benefits will continue until retirement, but this situation is the exception rather than the rule. At Allied Dunbar, Kevin Pearce says benefits are paid for an average of 18 months.

If you show signs of recovery, insurers will encourage you to restart work on a part-time basis initially. They will normally top up your income with a "rehabilitation" benefit until you are fit to resume full duties or for, say, 12 months. If you are not able to go back to your old occupation but take a lower paid job instead, a "proportionate" benefit may be paid indefinitely to reduce the gap in earnings between your old and new job.

Mr Pearce says: "Problems arise when people partially recover or become fit again but

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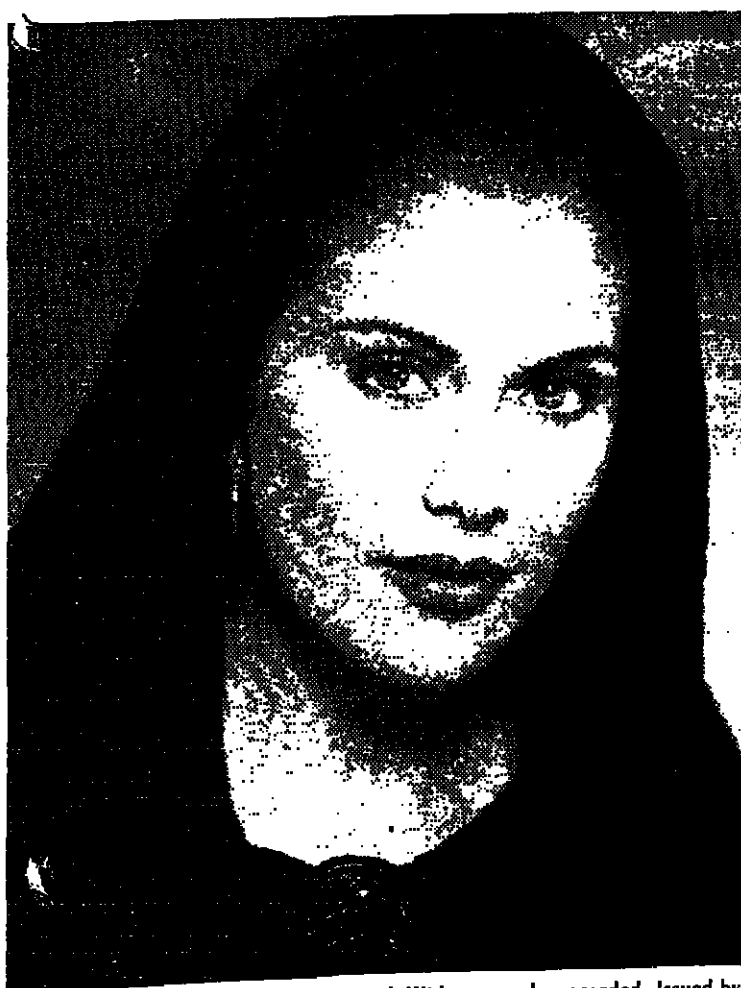
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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Noel Fung and Caroline Merrell on faith in an Asian boom

Full of Eastern promise

In the belief that the Asian markets are about to boom, Portfolio Fund Management is launching an Asian fund that will invest in what it claims are the best managed unit trusts in the Far East.

The Portfolio Asia Fund will be managed by Richard Timberlake, who is also chairman of Fund Research, the unit trust performance analysis business. The fund will invest in 25 funds from 15 of the leading Far Eastern fund managers. Mr Timberlake said: "The standard of fund management in the Far East is very good. There are about 30 of the 83 fund management groups we would consider. We chose 15 of them."

The fund's initial portfolio will include three funds from Fidelity, three from Schroder, four from HSBC and five from Invesco. The rest will be

Biggest portion of fund will be invested on Hong Kong market

divided among other funds from investment houses such as Perpetual, GT, Templeton and Morgan Grenfell. Jardine Fleming, the well known Asian investment house, which would usually have figured among the managers, has been excluded. Jardine Fleming recently received a £700,000 fine from the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the fund managers' watchdog.

Geographically, by far the biggest portion of the fund will be invested in companies quoted on the Hong Kong market. Mr Timberlake said: "This is really a play on China. Direct investment in China is still relatively underdeveloped." The Chinese market rose around 45 per cent during the first nine months of this year, while Hong Kong rose 10 per cent over the same period. Some 5 per cent or more of



Tide is turning: Portfolio Fund Management is hoping to catch some of the recovery on the Thailand stock market

the fund will be in each of the markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan and Korea. Mr Timberlake said: "Thailand and Korea have been at the bottom over the last two years; we are trying to catch some of the recovery." Portfolio believes that Asian markets have been depressed compared with markets in the UK, US and Europe. It thinks that growth, backed by strong economic fundamentals, will soon be renewed.

Mr Timberlake has spent the last few months interviewing 44 Far Eastern fund managers to find out which ones to use. He said: "I have done a huge amount of research in picking the best funds."

Analysts claim that stock in Asian markets is now much cheaper than it was two years ago. But they point out that the Asian economies are very vulnerable to changes in US interest rates, and countries

such as Thailand and Korea are subject to political risk. Ian Millward of Chase de Vere, the financial advisers, was also sceptical. He commented: "The fund will give investors a huge spread of investments. However, it may be a case of spreading the risk to ridiculous proportions. There is also going to be an element of double charging. Will the performance of the fund outweigh all the extra charges?"

The minimum investment in the Asian fund is £1,000. There will be discounts of up to 3 per cent in the initial offer. A 1 per cent discount will apply to investments between £3,000 and £9,999, a 2 per cent discount will apply for investments between £10,000 and £24,999, and a 3 per cent discount will apply for investments of more than £25,000. The initial charge is 6 per cent and the annual charge is 1.5 per cent.

Pep joy on shares from flotations

SOCIETY WATCH



Building society members who receive free shares when their society becomes a bank will be able to put these windfalls into a personal equity plan (Pep) without reducing their annual allowance (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Four societies, the Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock will lose their traditional mutual status next year, distributing free shares to qualifying investors and borrowers. The average payout from each society will be about £1,000. However, some investors with larger balances will pocket as much as £7,000-£8,000 worth of free shares. The Inland Revenue has confirmed that, so long as investors do not pay for the shares, they can be transferred to a Pep with zero value. This means that a building society member who receives £1,500 worth of free shares could start a general Pep and still be allowed to shelter the maximum £6,000 in the same plan in the same tax year. An investor who already has a general Pep could put the shares inside the plan even if the maximum £6,000 is already invested.

An Inland Revenue spokesman said: "If the shares cost you nothing, they do not count against the subscription limit. If you are lucky enough to have four building societies which convert in the same tax year, then you can put all these shares into a Pep."

Alternatively, the building society member could house the shares in a single-company Pep, where the annual limit is £3,000, although any additional investments would have to be in the converted building society's shares.

This unexpectedly generous gesture from the Revenue has actually been enshrined in its Pep rules since 1990. However, it has only come to light with the recent acquisition of National and Provincial Building Society (N&P) by Abbey National.

When more than 600,000

N&P members received an average of £1,400 of Abbey National shares in August free, the Pep Managers Association (Pepma) asked the Revenue if investors could transfer an infinite number of these shares to their Peps because they had not paid for them. Amazingly, the Revenue said yes.

Unfortunately for millions of life policyholders, demutualised life company shares are not currently eligible under the Pep rules. Norwich Union, which announced its plans last week, is lobbying for a change.

*In the chart on page 9 of this week's guide to Personal Equity Plans the column headings from column seven should read as follows: six months, one year, two years, three years, five years, ten years. In the table at the bottom of page 16, the entry for the Virgin Pep should read All-Share Tracker.

HALIFAX



Mike Blackburn of the Halifax, which is becoming a bank

Short-term bonds race ahead

That Bradford & Bingley's Millennium Bond, giving 7.25 per cent fixed for three years, was snapped up in just ten days while five-year bonds are hanging around unfilled indicates the mood savers are in. They have taken to short-termism in a big way. And aware of this the societies are pumping out the products.

This week the Derbyshire launched a two-year bond with a fixed rate of 6.75 per cent gross a year. Minimum balance is £5,000 and there is a monthly option giving 6.55 per cent. The Coventry has a three-year bond paying 7.3 per

Sarah Jones joins the big rush

cent a year, or a monthly rate of 7.05 per cent. The minimum investment is £1,000 and withdrawals are subject to a penalty of 180 days' interest.

On Wednesday Birmingham Midshires launches a one-year bond paying 6.3 per cent on balances from £5,000 to £50,000 and 6.5 per cent on more than £50,000. For a two-year term the rates are 6.6 and 6.8 per cent respectively. This is hard to beat.

Those with £100,000 to invest can get 7 per cent for two

years from the Britannia. For those willing to go slightly over the term, the Yorkshire offers 6.6 per cent on £5,000 up to March 1998, while the Northern Rock's Deposit Bond pays 6.75 per cent on a minimum £2,500 until December 1998.

Meanwhile, other providers are changing their rates on existing fixed products, and short-term rates are up while long-term rates are down.

For example, with the Halifax Guaranteed Reserve, the

six-month rate is up from 5 to 5.25 per cent and the one-year rate up from 5.5 to 5.65 per cent, while the three-year rate is down from 6.9 to 6.65 per cent. Similar movement is being seen in Guaranteed Income Bonds from the insurance companies.

Christine Bayless of Moneyfacts says: "There is so much speculation on which way base rates are going that savers want to tie themselves in for only a short term."

"They are wary of locking themselves in for five years because they could lose out in the last few years of the term," she says.

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Choosing the right mix of alco-stocks is important, says Matthew Wall

Sober judgment required to invest in drinks sector

SECTOR IN FOCUS

With the "feel-good" factor finally sinking back to the high street, champagne sales now emulating the heady days of the Eighties, and leisure spending creeping upwards, a select cocktail of drinks industry stocks should put some fizz into investors' portfolios.

The drinks sector includes large spirits and wine producers such as Guinness, Allied Domecq and Grand Metropolitan, and small pub retailers such as Surrey Free Inns, listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

But beware: indiscriminate mixing of drinks stocks can give the unwary a hangover. Investors in Matthew Wall, the cider-maker, know only too well how quickly a bubbly stock can turn flat. After a profits warning last month, Clark's share price halved and analysts slashed £20 million from profits forecasts.

Peter Aikens, Clark's chief executive, blames the catastrophic drop in sales of Diamond White and K, its premium bottled cider brands, on the explosive growth of alcoholic fruit-flavoured drinks, or "alcopops".

But institutions are furious because Aikens assured them that all was well just days before the profits warning. And its rival cider-maker, HP Bulmer, seems to have weathered the alcopops storm, leaving



Cheers all round: the return of better times in the drinks industry makes it a tempting investment prospect

the field. There are now more than 100 brands. But if investors think alcopop makers are good for a punt, they should bear in mind that the overall drinks market is static, if not in decline.

Surveying the big players, Alex Oldroyd, leisure analyst at Morgan Stanley, believes the market is underrating

and concentrating on its existing portfolio of brands.

Although the spirits market is declining in mature Western markets, Oldroyd believes those companies which can get the most value out of their brands, rather than the most volume, could still make a killing. And there are plenty of opportunities in the emerging economies, such as India, China and Malaysia.

The worldwide decline in spirits has led to speculation that mergers among the big players are inevitable. Indeed Guinness has carried out a feasibility study on a takeover of GrandMet, which most analysts have dismissed as highly unlikely.

On a smaller scale, Highland Distillers, owner of Famous Grouse, and its partner Suntory, the Japanese spirits giant, snapped up Macallan-Glenlivet for £88 million. Industry experts are predicting further consolidation in the sector, with only two other whisky companies, Glenmorangie and Burn Stewart, listed on the stock market. Glenmorangie is family controlled but has made no secret of its wish to go more public. Canny investors could do worse than target these two and Highland itself, as potential takeover targets.

Indiscriminate mixing can give unwary investors a hangover

ing a question mark over Clark's management.

The pub-retailing sector has rocketed after the Government's Best Orders in 1991 attempted to lessen the ties between brewing and pub retailing. J.D. Wetherspoon, the managed pub company, has blazed a trail. Its share price of around £11.50 is nearly double its level of a year ago.

The Magic Pub Company also cashed in when Greene King snapped it up for £80 million earlier this year.

The alcopops market has grown from nothing to a £300 million turnover industry in less than two years, with two brands. Hooper's Hooch, made by Bass, and Two Dogs, made by Merrydown, leading

Allied Domecq's retail and spirits brands. Allied recently sold its 50 per cent stake in Carlsberg-Tetley to Bass for £200 million, subject to regulatory approval, abandoning brewing for its other businesses. Oldroyd says: "The downside for Allied is now limited given that the spirits division has been restructured and its new management should turn it around. The Carlsberg-Tetley deal is a good clean-up of a bad mess, too. I recommend a buy."

Another favourite stock is Grand Metropolitan, whose spirits arm, International Distillers and Vintners, has world-leading brands such as Smirnoff vodka and Bailey's Irish Cream. GrandMet is selling off non-core businesses

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Adam Jones on the options at Lloyd's as profits return

Names in the money and back in the game

The nail-biting finale to the Lloyd's of London recovery has obscured one blunt fact. People have made money from the insurance market this year and now they have to decide what to do with it.

It is hard to look beyond the £8 billion losses that Lloyd's made between 1987 and 1992, but the three subsequent years were lucrative. The profit for 1993, shared out only this year since Lloyd's works three years in arrears, was a record £1 billion. Profits for 1994 and 1995 should be £1 billion and £880 million. As a result, about 12,000 names — the people who underwrite the insurance market's deals — will receive cheques rather than bills as part of the reconstruction package.

For thousands, the money will not nearly cover losses — but a cheque is still a cheque. Some recipients, like the Earl of Mountcharles, can now revive long-delayed projects. The Irish aristocrat is one of the names who paid all his debts to Lloyd's and continued underwriting after 1992. In his final statement he can expect £44,000 — his share of 1993's excellent results minus his final payments for Lloyd's reconstruction. The figure is much less important than the knowledge that he will

People will receive cheques, not bills

be getting no more bills for the period up to 1993. It means he can free capital set aside against possible future cash calls and plan the restoration of the family seat.

Slane Castle, in Co Meath, burned down in 1991 and because it was uninsured, and because of crippling Lloyd's losses, reconstruction was not possible. A series of rock concerts, featuring the likes of REM and Guns 'N' Roses could only fund day-to-day maintenance.

Other names benefiting from the 1993 payout will have to consider the ways of minimising the tax they pay. It's not an issue if a name's historic losses continue to be greater than the income earned since the bad underwriting years began — many will be in this position and they won't have to pay tax. But those names who managed to keep another significant income source may have to give the Inland Revenue a cut of the 1993 payment.

One way of reducing this tax burden is to put the money into a special reserve created by Lloyd's. A name can put half the underwriting profits into this reserve. Income tax on the gains is thereby deferred until the name resigns and the money is withdrawn, when it is charged at the



Lord Mountcharles: settlement means he can revive long-delayed projects

prevailing rate. But if the name makes underwriting losses in the meantime, the money in the reserve pays the deficit — the original income tax is never paid. The disadvantage of this arrangement is common to all tax-deferral schemes: when the money is withdrawn, the prevailing rate of income tax may be greater.

Nor can the money in the special reserve be used as "funds at Lloyd's", the money each name has to lodge with the market as a symbol of willingness and ability to pay potentially larger losses. For names who don't want to continue underwriting at Lloyd's, the special reserve is no use because it doesn't allow them to pick up the profits and leave.

But there is another option. From the 1993-94 tax year — the most recent year for which Lloyd's has paid out — names have

been able to put profits into a personal pension. Depending on their age, between 17.5 per cent and 40 per cent of underwriting income can be put into a scheme as a one-off premium offering tax relief up to 40 per cent. The underlying investment accumulates free of income tax. As with all personal pensions, the income eventually drawn will be taxed, but a quarter can be withdrawn as a tax-free lump sum.

One advantage is that the money earned by funds deposited at Lloyd's as a surety — the so-called "unearned income" achieved by normal lump-sum investment — can also be pensioned. The maximum amount of Lloyd's income that can be contributed for 1993-94 could be restrictive, though: between £13,125 and £30,000. But these allowances may increase for subsequent years.

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THE TIMES

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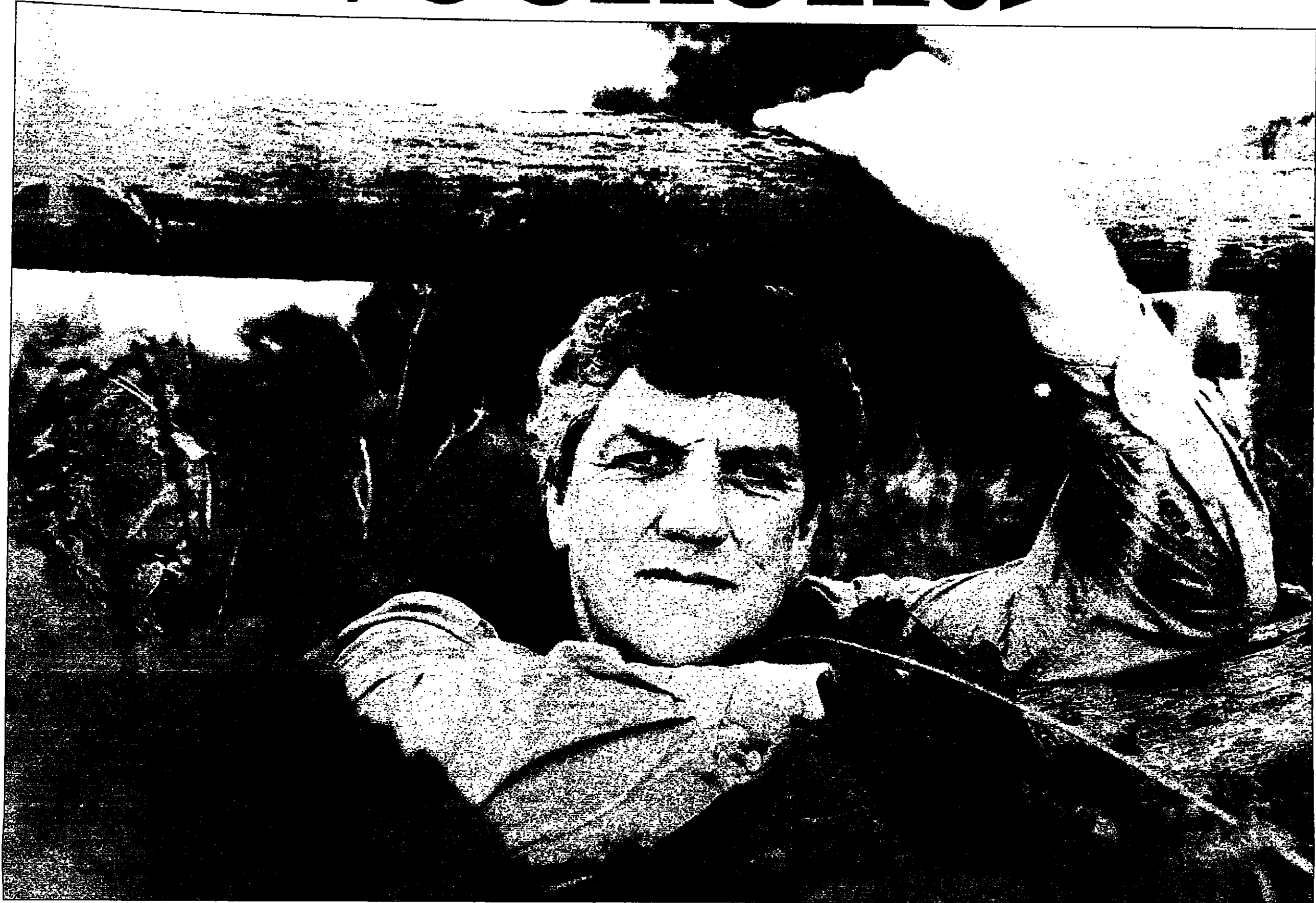
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THE TIMES weekend

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12 1996



Paul Heiney launches THE TIMES Countryside Campaign

Of all the insults which could be hurled at a countryman, none was more crushing than that inflicted upon Vincent Vines by his fellow villagers at Hillesley in Gloucestershire. At last year's bonfire party, Mr Vines offered them all a glass of his special pea-pod wine. We do not know the precise details of how it was made, from which slopes the pea pods were picked, or whether the wine was matured in oak or an old Coke bottle. Having tasted home-brewed country wines myself, it is a safe bet that there was more of a bang in it than anything else at that bonfire party. But the villagers declined his offer and so Mr Vines drank the wine himself, alone, and apparently to excess.

This story would have ended with no more than a severe headache for Mr Vines had he not been so offended that he took an air rifle and started blasting off. The case came up last week and Mr Vines is now doing 200 hours' community service.

Without in any way endorsing the firing of pellets (try a pea-shooter next time, Mr Vines), I find it difficult not to have sympathy with the poor chap. Apparently, he had come to feel

like a stranger in the village he had lived in all his life; a lonely man hemmed in, he felt, by sophisticated newcomers to whom, I guess, pea-pod wine was like some alien juice from the jungle.

What this story so graphically describes is the increasingly large divide that exists in some rural areas brought about by the different needs and wishes of people born and bred in the country and those who move into it, enjoy its pleasures, but often fail to appreciate its many woes.

I was once the incomer, new to the rural life with my polished brogues and a fanciful flat cap. Now, airguns apart, I am on Mr Vines's side. With some hesitation — for there will be many who will want to disagree — I would like to declare that after a long and arduous apprenticeship I am a countryman at last.

It is possibly one of the great misunderstandings of our time that a working knowledge of toads, gnats, owls and fungi is all it takes to win your countryman's badge. But these, I have come to realise, are as irrelevant to a true understanding of rural Britain as is familiarity with jellied eels and the *Lambeth Walk* to a working knowledge of London. To under-

stand rural life you have to live it and breathe it, good weather and bad, in sickness and in health, and even drink the pea-pod wine. Do all that long enough and the door starts to open. It takes a long time and, at the grave risk of being marched out of the county for saying so, I feel I have now served my time.

It was my idea that we came to live in Suffolk 15 years ago. I found a tumble-down farmhouse with enough rising damp to float a ship, timbers on which woodworm had grown fat and doors that rattled as the winter winds whistled through the cracks created by the gnawing of vermin. Bliss.

In the garden, I planted marrows (never eaten), earthen potatoes (riddled by worms) and tended cabbagees (decimated by pests). But none of it mattered.

To my romantically befuddled mind, the very arrival of the first hungry caterpillar of the season

was some kind of welcome to the club. Now I could lean over the garden gate, like Mr McGregor, and moan about rabbits with the rest of the real country gardeners. This, you could say, is the First Age of Countryman; beguiled, besotted, and ignoring the cries of one's family who might add beleaguering to the list.

My next age — one modelled loosely on the humble farmer whose horse-drawn methods are extinct and whose spirit has long departed the land to the detriment of the soil and livestock — has been only too well documented in this newspaper. For six years, we — I say we because I always felt I farmed surrogately for the readers as much as for myself — ploughed, sowed, reaped and mowed with our faithful cart-horses, trying to prove virtue in techniques and attitudes that modern farming has dismissed. When I get my breath back, I may come to some conclusion as to how successful we were. But now I have arrived at a defining

moment — the start of the Third Age. With a chance at last to look at the world around me, rather than be forever gazing down at the soil, I see that much of rural Britain does not make for a pretty sight.

I never thought I would ever hear these words on my lips, but I now accept that in the country might actually be a lousy place to live. It takes a true countryman to admit that.

Not lousy, I hasten to add, for larks, owls, bats and butterflies, who now have more than enough agencies, support groups and wildlife groupies to need no further help. Or for me, for that matter; I am lucky enough to have the choice to up sticks, if I want. No, I am talking about country people. Remember them? They used to live hereabouts in thousands, in what were called villages which had pubs where they could all gather for a drink in the old days.

People were part of the landscape till modern farming meth-

ods and financial and social pressures did away with them.

It is the few who remain who need a preservation order slapping on them, and pretty damned quick. These are the ones, of all ages, who were born in the country, live here, have to raise families, earn livings, forge futures for themselves. If I were to list their priorities, living as they do in the same lush and peaceful bit of England from where I write, you might think this was a plea from the inner-city.

Jobs are at the top of the list, particularly for the young. We live not far from Sizewell. There was a distinct groan to be heard from school leavers when the building of the third nuclear reactor was shelved: that's how desperate they are. From unemployment, it is not a large leap to drugs and minor crime.

Schools are a worry too: not so much the standard of them, which is generally high, but the number and scattering of them. Then housing, especially for young families who cannot afford prices inflated beyond their reach by the seekers after weekend retreats. Add to that a shortage of transport, shops and pubs and

you start to get a better picture of life in the country in the late 1990s. Notice no mention of the environment, farming practices and landscape issues, which seem to be so fiercely debated in the upland areas of north London. These matters, but so do the people.

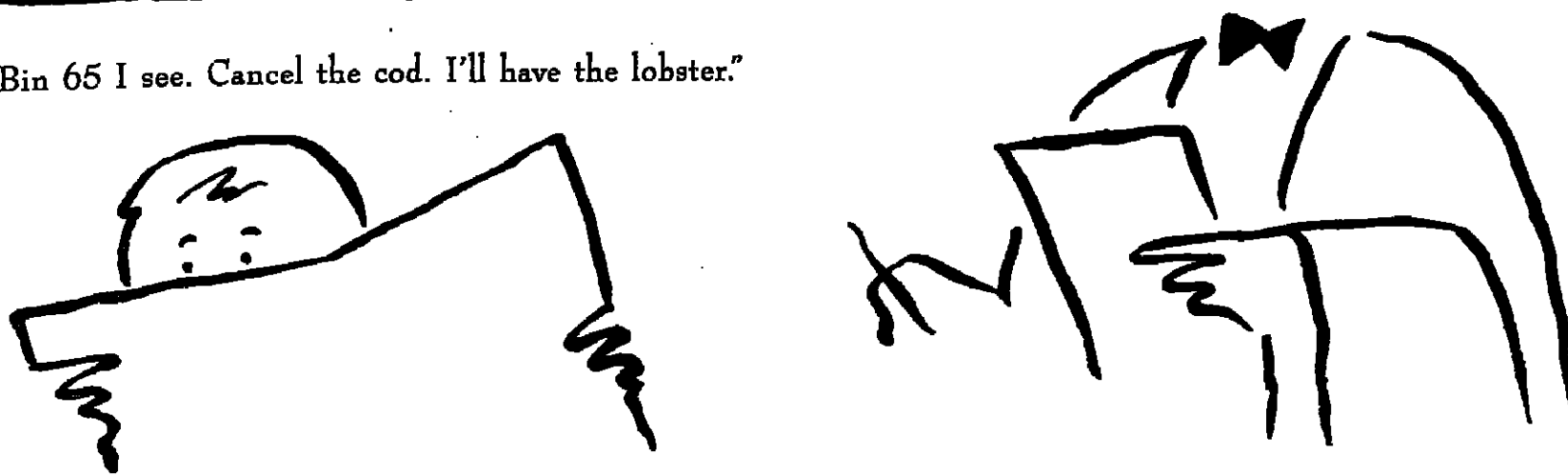
To demonstrate how far the balance in rural priorities has shifted, a close look at a small rural market town is all that is required. Ignore the estate agents, the antique shops and the tea shops. Much left? Butcher, baker, candlestick-maker? Any sense of place where a community might gather? Probably not. On a really bad day, the only person to be seen might be someone rattling a tin, seeking support for birds, bats or beech trees.

A couple of years ago, after a brief visit to Romania, I returned home to find the atmosphere in some of our local small towns disturbingly similar to the depression that hung heavy over that country. Shops with half-stocked shelves, empty establishments vacated by businesses, which had gone broke and taken for a peppercorn rent by a chap

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ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING...

by
RACHEL KELLY



HELLERWORK

I have just propped three blockbusters beneath my desk and planted my feet on top. Leg akimbo. My shoulders are dropped. I am breathing slowly and deeply. My head is central to my shoulders. I look ridiculous and very great.

I'm fresh from an hour's Hellerwork. Most people won't have heard of it, but health centres tend to refer Heller massage. In fact, it has almost nothing to do with massage.

It wasn't that I was feeling ill. But nor was I feeling well. Like many, I felt overwhelmed. Nothing in particular: not off-colour, but the certainly not on tip-top. "Hello flowers, hello sky, form either."

I had a fairly average range of symptoms: tiredness, slight backache, tension round the shoulders, the odd patch of insomnia. The I read of John Higginbotham, a freelance trombonist currently playing in the West End musical *Martin Guerre*, who claimed his life had been "transformed" by Hellerwork. I can't resist anything which promises to transform.

This is not a cure for the shy. When I arrived at Roger Golden's studio in Baker Street, London, I found a year-old, bearded, 40-year-old, his looks belie his age. He told me undress to my underwear in inspection.

This was to assess my posture. It was what Mr Golden describes as "average", which sounds as though it means not too bad but actually is in contrast to "normal". Basically, normal means you can look down and see your toes. I couldn't.

"We tend to slump, putting the weight forward," he said. My own posture was weakened by being small (5'2in) and large chested, which again throws the weight forward and puts extra strain on the shoulders.

FACT FILE

- **Hellerwork theory**
This is a form of "deep" bodywork or massage that smooths out muscle blockages caused by stress and bad posture, thus realigning the body to its normal position.
- **Advantages**
The effects are long-term as it teaches you how to improve your posture.
- **Disadvantages**
It hurts.
- **Cost**
£60 a session.
- **Verdict**
Definitely worth it for long-term re-education.

When I was flat on the couch, Mr Golden asked me to examine my breathing. It was shallow and short. "I want you to remember that and see how you feel at the end of the session," he said.

The idea of Hellerwork is that our bodies adapt to the way we live. And because many of us stand badly, sit for too long in ill-designed chairs and tense our bodies to handle stress, we end up structurally misaligned.

Hellerworkers claim to restore flexibility by deep-tissue bodywork, thereby relieving tension. Unlike masseurs, the Hellerworker bypasses muscles and concentrates, instead, on fascia. The fascia is the structure that binds muscle fibres together and links with tendons and ligaments.

The idea is that the fascia gradually adapts to the way we move. If, for example, you hold a telephone in a fixed position for a long time, the fascia gradually bunches up to cause tension. And by learning to walk and sit properly, we can do much to help ourselves.

Mr Golden's skill is to iron



Hellerworkers use their hands and arms to knead out the knots of tension and make you feel loose and supple

out, using his hands and arms if need be, those knots of tension and make you feel loose and supple.

Be warned: it hurts. But the pain comes in very short bursts and is interspersed by a wonderful kneading that seems to go to the very heart of those horrid tense spots in a way that makes ordinary massage feel redundant and light-fingered.

The pain lessens as the blood flows back to tissues you feel it has long bypassed, and your breathing gets slower and deeper. And the more you relax when you learn that Mr Golden is a sympathetic father of two, who used to be a ship broker, the less the pain.

In fact, the pain is instructive. The point is to let go where it hurts. So my upper arms, for example, were

tense from too much sitting at a computer screen. They hurt like crazy when Mr Golden began kneading. He told me to let go, stop tensing them up. The pain immediately lessened.

At that point, I felt like an ad for a fabric softener, originally the "before" jumper that is twisted and knotted, and then the "after" jumper that is soft and bouncy.

Hellerwork was begun by Joseph Heller in America in 1978. The deep-tissue "bodywork" as it is termed aims to realign and rebalance the body. The good news for the gym-shy is that violent exercise is unhelpful once your body is out of shape.

Mr Golden likens our bodies to cars. "If, for example,

the front wheels were misaligned, you wouldn't suggest a driver goes on an epic 100-mile ride," he says. Likewise, too much gym work can be counter-productive as it hardens the muscles.

At the end of the session I felt calm, energetic and loose of limb. And I felt spiritually enlightened too. I think it was something to do with a sense of being nice to my own body and putting it back into its "normal" rather than "average" position.

There was a nice spiritual feel to our session. By concentrating on my body, rather than rushing round on behalf of others, I had a pleasing sense that I could achieve more.

And a postscript: my next door neighbour told me I looked taller. Now that's a bonus when you're 5ft 2in.

SPECIALISTS

Only six Hellerwork specialists practise in the UK. All are based in London:
■ **MacIntyre Gallery**, 29 Crawford St, London W1H 1PL (0171-723 5676). £40-£60 for 1 hour.
■ **Life Centre**, 15 Edge St, London W8 7PN (0171-221 4602). £60 for 1 hour.
■ **Hale Clinic**, 7 Park Cres, London W1N 3HE (0171-631 0156). £60 for 1 hour.
■ **Slim Jims**, 1 Finsbury Ave, London EC2M 2PA (0171-247 9982). £50 for 1½ hours.
■ **Body Workers**, 16 Brune St, London E1 7NJ (0171-721 7833/7835). £50 for 1½ hours.
■ **36 Langley Hill**, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 6EX (0956 514522). £50 for 1 hour.

SERIOUS SHOPPING

by
GILES COREN



The Designer Shirt

People who do not understand designer shirts may never grasp what I am about to say. But let me touch one or two cultural chords.

Robert Redford, in Jack Clayton's 1974 film of *The Great Gatsby*, tosses some shirts in the air and Mia Farrow, as Daisy Buchanan, weeps. "It makes me sad," she sobs. "Because I've never seen such beautiful shirts before." And so she loves him. The shirts were by Ralph Lauren.

Think of the cop played by Sean Connery in *Rising Sun*, who stops a riot in the 'hood by wearing Armani. Richard Gere in *American Gigolo*. Mickey Rourke in *9½ Weeks*. Harrison Ford in *Working Girl*.

When a man buys a shirt he is not just covering his body in a holy ritual. But there are rules. Always spend more than £75. Remember a shirt is a man. I often find myself pottering around M&S, looking at nice cotton shirts in evening mauve for £29. I am on the point of purchase. And then I think, "why buy it here, when I can get the same thing round the corner, in Nicole Farhi for £129?"

Try Polo by Ralph Lauren. The £85 chinos with their button-down collars, crisp lines, and small horse above the left nipple, colour-coordinated to complement, are the only way to dress for Sunday lunch. Grant Mitchell, in *EastEnders*, wears nothing else. There are traps, though, even chez Ralph. At £325 the Braddock wool overshirt in a dog-brown check is not only vile, but misses the point.

You do not want to leave the shop feeling like an idiot. Thus, rule two: never spend more than £175. Fail to obey this little dictum and you will find yourself in Versace — shirting hole of Peter Stringfellow, Chris Eubank, and Gazza — buying leopard print things for £380, or brown zigzags for £460. And yet, avoid Yves Saint Lau-

rent's Rive Gauche. Their chinos shirts are identical to Polo so there must be a reason why they are only £53.

The place to go for pure 1990s sexiness is Donna Karan, the Armani of the next millennium. The shop in New Bond Street, which opened three weeks ago, is what Heaven would look like if God was an interior designer. The black shirt in 100 per cent polyester is a giveaway at £150, and there are hundred quid corks in acetate and rayon, that say "cool" with two capital "O"s with little eyes in each one and long eyelashes.

Forget the trendier line, DKNY, or you might part with £140 for their zip-fronted thing, cut from discarded shell-suits. And that would be sad.

Better to track back to Emporio Armani, where the tailored shirts in charcoal crepe (£129) will make you forget the 1983-issue parquet floors and studded collars that snap off the first time you undress. Oh, and buy nothing in the Armani Jeans line, the gold flash on the pocket makes you look like a boy scout. But it is the place to root out the stonking one-off. I have a 1992 long-tailed linen shirt in midnight blue, which can still walk into the Colombe d'Or, on its own, and have Michael Winner ousted from the best table in the house.

But times do change. "Everyone," I am told, "is going Gucci and Prada mad." Leave them to it. If you want epaulettes on your slimsy, belly-bugging shirts get them mail order from the ads in *The Guardian*. Take these guidelines as a peripat against post-purchase tristesse. Don't bother trying it on because at that price it must look good. And remember: it will never wear out, because the washing instructions will be so complicated that it languishes forever at the bottom of the washbasket.

But the washbasket will feel good.

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'Country life in Britain is threatened as never before'

Continued from page 1
who collected ramshackle bits of furniture and sat with them till sold.

Country people are resilient souls, more than capable of looking after themselves, given half a chance. They would be very happy to coppice the woodlands, repair the dry-stone walls, weave wattle hurdles, repair the landscape to visitors' taste — if only it could be made to pay.

Some nations appreciate their countrymen and encourage them. The French, Swiss and Italians subsidise the rural living of those who make the distinctive landscape of their countries what it is: in this country we are happy to see such people as our hill farmers smacked across the face by market forces against which even their hardiness cannot stand. Rural skill is not valued, and very little money exists to support it.

Probably the most useless item in the real countryside is the Yellow Pages, because the most useful people work not under convenient umbrellas but as gifted individuals who will happily

turn their hand to any of half a dozen trades.

But to be an individual in this age of blanket legislation is no fun. Ask the beach fishermen who have been well and truly strung up by European fishing legislation designed to restrict overfishing. It is difficult to see how a handful of chaps working in something no bigger than an overgrown rowing boat is going to deplete much in the North Sea. Likewise the small butchers, the cheese-makers and hill farmers.

It is time for those who have a dreamy notion of country living to be presented with a grasp of what it is really like to live in what many people is a playground. That is what I shall do here, every week, if country people would be good enough to help me.

Our agenda is as diverse as country life itself, and as rich as country people want to make it. I could list a thousand villages that have lost their pubs, post offices and village shops in the past couple of years, and another thousand that will lose them in the next two: the residents of Steppingly in Bedfordshire are having to buy back their own pub, allotment

holders near Stroud in Gloucestershire are being flung out like weeds from the grounds of a hospital so that the land can be sold for development.

Country people have traditionally kept themselves to themselves, and likewise their problems. They are never going to get up and march to enforce their demands; they are too few, and too diverse, and too busy. But from my experience, they know what they need.

The parish pump may have dried up, the shop put up its shutters, but there will always be space here for a good tale.

Country life, as opposed to the countryside, is as threatened as any of the birds and the bees. But without support for people living country lives, there is nothing but creeping suburbia and over-farmed prairie land, with pockets of self-conscious national park.

In the case of Mr Vines and the pea-pod wine, the judge told him: "You have got to learn to live with changing conditions. I understand [the village] is not what it was, but you have to change with it."

Why? Cue to dig in our heels, uncork the pea-pod wine and raise it to our lips like a trumpet of war.

THE TIMES Countryside Campaign

Paul Heiney would welcome readers' contributions, addressed to him at *The Times Countryside Campaign*, c/o Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that he cannot enter into personal correspondence but will reflect readers' concerns through his column every week in Weekend.

Cover photograph and picture of Paul Heiney this page by PETER NICHOLS



Paul Heiney: "Rural skills continue to be undervalued"

Green wellies to step down

Grace Bradberry reports on how the green wellie, once the undisputed icon of the countryside, is now losing its status among rural attire and being discarded in favour of trendy walking boots and hiking gear

Every Friday throughout the 1980s, overworked city-dwellers used to load up their jeeps for a country weekend. Everyone knew the form. Whether it was a converted barn or a "stately" that one was headed for, the ritual was the same: back out the jeep, load the red setter, and pack a Barbour jacket, cords, and a pair of green wellies.

Not black. They were what clueless townies wore on their occasional forays beyond the Home Counties. But green, just like the ones the local farmers wore. Unfussy, untownie and indisputably "the right thing", they separated the Tamaras from the Traceys.

Somewhere between the 1970s and the 1990s, however, they moved through a steep style curve, then dropped swiftly away into ignominy. From an upper-class idiosyncrasy, they became the insignia of the Sloane Ranger, egged on by pictures of Lady Diana Spencer, toggled up in tweeds and wellies to prove her love of country pursuits.

But the rot really set in when they became the weekend wear of estate agents. The mud stuck and now they are worn only by arrivistes and die-hard traditionalists.

The green wellie has been so debased, so over-exposed, that it is a sartorial joke, ripe for lampooning. Antonio Berardi, one of the young Britpack designers, has come up with a skin-tight green wellie stiletto, to be worn at clubs as part of the "new Sloane" look that designers are pushing at the moment.

But though designers may be embracing Sloaneism, those born to that world are still fleeing from it. "You only have to say the word Barbour and everybody falls about with sick bags," says Ewa Lewis, social editor of *Tatler*, and a keen observer of the country set at play.

"Wellies come in all sorts of colours now, and lots of people don't wear them at all. I've got a pair of Lady Northampton's black canvas boots, but they're falling apart. I've begged her to make some more but she won't." The new "uniform" consists of padded tweed jackets, thick-soled boots, and large hats, particularly Gilly Forge's Andy Capp styles. "Don't whatever you do wear feathers in your hat," warns Miss Lewis. "It really is naff."

Why wear a hat at all? To real country types, they spell

not only warmth but camouflage. "My hair is practically white and acts like a beacon," says Jennifer Guerrini-Maraldi, fashion editor of *Country Life*. "I'm worried the pheasants will see me, so I always wear a hat."

Style-snobbery aside, green is a hardy perennial for outdoors, blending as it does with the grass and trees. Even Gore-tex jackets, which used to come mainly in "mountain rescue" colours (shocking pink, turquoise), are now available in a suitably rural green.

But within the narrow bounds of what is acceptable, there is some room for manoeuvre. Thomas Burberry, the more youthful diversion line of Burberry, specialises in trad-with-a-twist, as does Victoria

don't want to look like real old Sloanes." Mindful of the fate of the Barbour, she is careful to allow nothing to become "the bog standard look," as she puts it. "I don't want to create something that can be copied by everyone, so I only make 25 of a particular design in a particular tweed. The chances of bumping into someone else in the same jacket are pretty slim."

But wearing the same shoes as everyone else, is, apparently, perfectly acceptable. Timberlands remain firm favourites, but Caterpillars have now taken over as the in thing. "If you must wear wellies, then black ones are better than green, and why not get them from a farm shop? Why pay a fortune for ones with a name



Stapleton, a 28-year-old country girl who designs using traditional Brora tweeds. "I find a lot of my designs in people's old gun rooms," she says. "A jacket that belonged to someone's grandfather or whatever. Then I'll take the designs apart and put them back together using tweeds and herringbones, and making them a bit more groovy. Above all, my customers

blazoned on the side?" suggests Miss Stapleton.

The author Margaret Drabble says: "I have had the same pair of black wellies for 30 years, and they are totally impenetrable. In fact, I can't understand how wellie makers stay in business, because they seem to last forever. I like black ones because when I walk in woodland, I like to blend in, but I don't regard them as a fashion statement — they are just to slosh around in."

The television presenter and frequent countrygoer Mariella Frostrup says: "I have a pair of black wellies which I bought from a service station. I wear them with layers and layers of thick socks. If I was given a



I WOULDN'T WEAR ANYTHING ELSE

Jonathan Dimbleby, President of the Council for the Protection of Rural England: "I have two pairs of green wellies, one for walking and the other for wearing in the cow-shed, which is covered in dung. I buy the expensive type, which last a long time and protect me from a pitchfork in the foot or any damp oozing between the toes when I am in the cow-shed. I don't care if people say they are unfashionable — I hope they are."

Joan Bakewell, author: "The track to my country

house is no place for leather slippers or walking boots. I wouldn't part with my green wellies. In the country one needs serious utilitarian stuff, not fashion accessories."

Jeffrey Archer, author: "I wear green wellies every Saturday at Cambridge City rugby ground which is very muddy. I wear them with woollen socks knitted for me by a lady from the Hebrides. Nothing else would be as comfortable or warm. Long live the green Wellington."

LEFT: Green "Border" Barbour jacket, £149, Farlows (5, Pall Mall, SW1; 0171-839 2423). Cream merino wool poloneck, £85, John Smedley (from Harrods and department stores nationwide; 0171-580 5078). Tweed pleated skirt, £174; Burgundy/jade/cream print wool chalis shawl; shooting stick, £160, all Holland and Holland. Green Barbour wellies, £39, John Lewis (0171-629 7711)

ABOVE: Tweed country check jacket, £225, Brora (344 Kings Road, SW7; 0171-352 3897). Blue fleck tweed zippered cardigan, £75; matching crop sweater, £59.50; cranberry jeans, £49.50, all Thomas Burberry (191 Regent St, W1; 0171-734 4816). Green tweed cap with fake fur trim, from £75 to order, Gilly Forge (14 Addison Ave, W11; 0171-603 3833). Brown leather boots, £79.99, Caterpillar (from Cobra Sports, 0181-847 4616)

"A toast," he said, "to all that's elegant, vibrant, stylish, with hidden depths and a full, well-rounded body besides which all others must be measured."



THE BOOTS THAT MEAN BUSINESS



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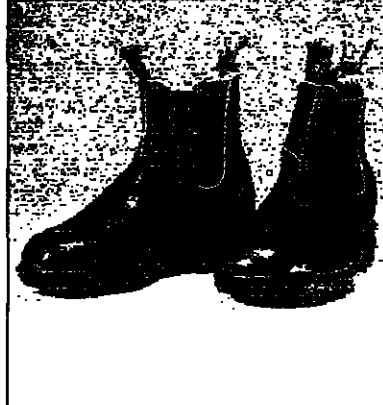
CATERPILLAR
This boot has durable Goodyear welt construction with oil-resistant sole. Available in dark brown or black. Price £79.99. Sizes: 37-46, from River Island, Office and Sacha, all with branches nationwide.



PARABOAT
This Norwegian company designs boots guaranteed to withstand the rugged outdoors. Available in coffee, black, brown and nubuck. Price £190. Sizes: 39-46, from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Office, branches nationwide, (0181-543 2211).



CAMPER
This zip-front high-performance waterproof fabric boot with a Dynatec modern upper is available in black, petrol blue or silver grey. Price: £97. Sizes: 34-46, 39 Floral Street, Covent Garden, WC2; Harvey Nichols, SW1, (0171-379 8678).



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"For one glorious moment, I thought he was talking about me."



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Convert to an architect

An architect-designed room is no longer such an expensive idea

If mention of architects conjures up images of impressive but exorbitant designer homes, then think again. Architects are now an affordable option to manage the design and construction of even the smallest domestic building project.

Many architects will handle projects with a total budget of as little as £5,000. Julian Owen, an architect in Nottingham, feels that the traditional image of his profession as stuffy and expensive is now completely outmoded.

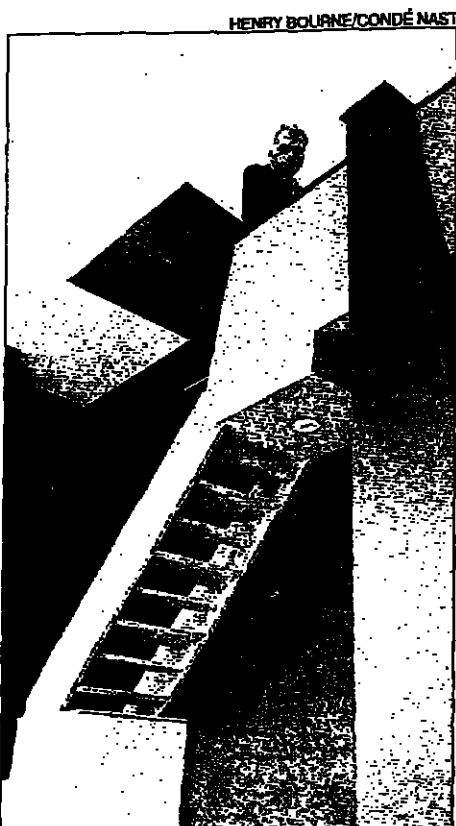
"Like many other professions, architecture has been streamlined by the recession. We are now more accessible and affordable than ever before," he says. "Just because a design job is small, people shouldn't assume that an architect is inappropriate."

As loft developments, barn conversions and self-build homes take an increasingly firm foothold in the property market, architects are proving more popular than ever. Mark Humphries, an architect and loft developer in Birmingham, attributes this popularity to a more design-aware public. "People are far more imaginative and adventurous than I'd ever believed before," he says. "In Birmingham, everyone wants shower walls made of glass bricks — I wish they didn't because they are so heavy. It's an architect's nightmare."

With so many people turning to architects for the first time, finding the right professional can be a daunting task. "Unfortunately, most clients just pick an architect randomly from Yellow Pages," Mr Owen says. "They can get a frosty response when they choose a firm more used to dealing with a budget of £250,000 in office development."

This mistake can be easily avoided by contacting the Client Advisory Service (CAS) of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The CAS has 14 regional offices and is available to anyone contemplating building work.

As Bridget Owen of the CAS explains: "Since 1972, we have been putting clients in touch with the right architect for their purposes in their area. We have an extensive database of more than 3,000 architects throughout the UK with details of their specialities and past projects."



Architect Ian Hogarth climbs the stairs in the new duplex apartment created on the roof of a former pub in Chelsea. Right: the double-height living and dining area



WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY

■ Design stage

The architect works with the client in developing a brief for the work and producing ideas and sketches. The final result is an outline design which the architect then submits for planning permission. (Often an architect will consult with planners before submitting the design, especially if it is in a conservation area — this saves disappointment at a later stage.)

■ Working drawings

The architect makes submissions to the local authority in order to ensure that the project complies with building regulations — this stage is concerned with health

and safety, ensuring that the construction is sound.

■ Detailed design

The design is produced covering the whole project, including fixtures and fittings, right down to the finish on the bath taps.

■ Tendering process

The architect invites tenders from contractors, then chooses the best offer and makes sure that written contracts are signed, binding the contractor to complete the work.

■ Construction

The architect manages the construction process, attends site meetings and prepares the certificates necessary for raising money from building societies.

Another useful source of information is the Association of Self-Build Architects (ASBA). This is a network of 45 architects' practices across Britain that specialise in the design and construction of homes, as opposed to retail or commercial work. ASBA offers a first consultation free of charge and information is available on its freephone number 0800 387310.

"Having found one or more architects suited to the type and scale of your project, the next step is to look at other projects an architect has completed," Mr Owen says. "You can either ask to see photographs of their past work or, better still, if you have the time and energy go and see the projects for yourself."

Ms Owen of the CAS also

suggests that prospective clients should contact some of the architect's previous clients and ask them for references. "There is nothing like getting the client's side of the story."

An architect's fee is usually calculated as a proportion of the total cost of the project. This can vary but is usually between 10 and 15 per cent of the total cost. A figure of 12 per cent for most domestic projects would be a fair guide. But remember that architects can actually be a good financial investment by saving you far more than they cost in fees. "Usually architects get involved at the tendering stage when the various contractors present the client with an estimate for the work," Mr Owen says. "Tenders we received on a

recent project to build a house from scratch varied from £87,000 to £128,000. With such a large variation it is not hard to see how architects can literally pay for themselves."

ADAM BARKER

- Client Advisory Service, Royal Institute of British Architects, 6 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD (0171-307 3700).
- Association of Self-Build Architects, Junction 41 Business Court, East Ardsley, Leeds, West Yorkshire WF3 2AB (freephone 0800 387310).
- Julian Owen Associates, 6 Cumberland Avenue, Beeston Nottingham NG9 4DH (0115-922 9831).
- Mark Humphries (01905 621811).

SPACE SAVERS

Litman Goddard Hogarth in Chelsea, west London, has six architects. The practice undertakes all manner of projects — small and large, domestic, retail and commercial.

"More people are turning to architects as an alternative to interior designers," says Ian Hogarth, a partner. "The real advantage of architects is that they are trained and skilled in space, light and colour not just surface decoration."

He feels that the increase in numbers using architects is in part a product of a more design-aware public.

"There is a backlash against the dreary properties churned out by the volume home builders," he says. "Sadly, developers continue to be obsessed with the number of bedrooms. They pay no attention to the potential of the space that they are using."

An architect's work can add substantially to the value of the property, whether aesthetic value reaped by the occupants, or financial value from a higher selling price or rent.

Even small projects can benefit from this input. Litman Goddard Hogarth recently completed a total redesign of a one-bedroom flat in Finsbury Park, central London.

"First we removed everything in the flat and opened it up," says Stephen Turvil, the architect. "Having converted it to an open-plan space, we put in a sliding wall to partition off the bedroom. The flat now has variable space."

The whole project, which took three months, cost £55,000, including construction work, materials and the architect's fees.

This may sound like a lot of money, but Mr Hogarth puts the costs of the project into perspective. "The work turned a shabby flat that was impossible to let into a space that was let at nearly treble the previous rent four days after completion. The flat will not need any refurbishment for 20 years."

● Litman Goddard Hogarth, 12 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Road, London SW10 0QJ (0171-351 7871).



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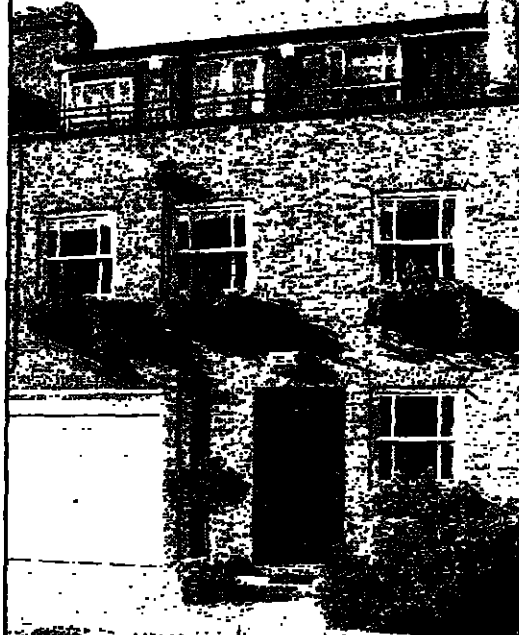
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DULWICH, SE21 Freehold £495,000

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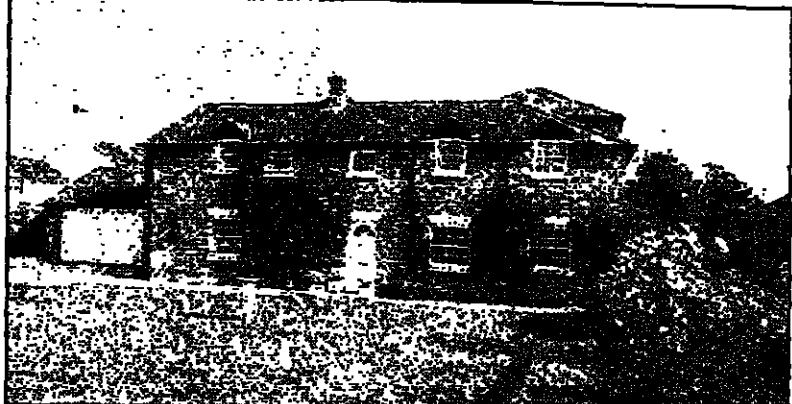
REGENTS PARK, NW1 Lease to 2066 £175,000

On the south side of the Park, in a private enclave, a quietly located second floor flat overlooking the courtyard. Bedroom, bathroom, reception room, kitchen, storage, lift, porterage, u/g parking.
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PIMLICO, SW1 Freehold £595,000

In Moreton Place, an elegant and well decorated house with long sash windows onto the front balcony and a separate basement flat. 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 reception rooms, study, kitchen, utility room, patio.
BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854



DOWNTON, Hampshire Freehold £295,000

On a private estate a beautifully converted former carriage house with fine views over the surrounding farmland. 4 bedrooms, shower room, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, double garage, gardens.
LYMINGTON: 01590 677233



CHURCH, Surrey Freehold £395,000

A modern house with all the advantages and within the NHBC guarantee but built in a traditional style in delightful countryside. 5 bedrooms, 2 shower rooms, bathroom, hall, 3 reception rooms, study, kitchen, utility room, double garage, gardens.
FARNHAM: 01252 737115

Fiona Beckett inspects a £1.8 million, 17th-century house that spares nothing for the comfort of its inhabitants

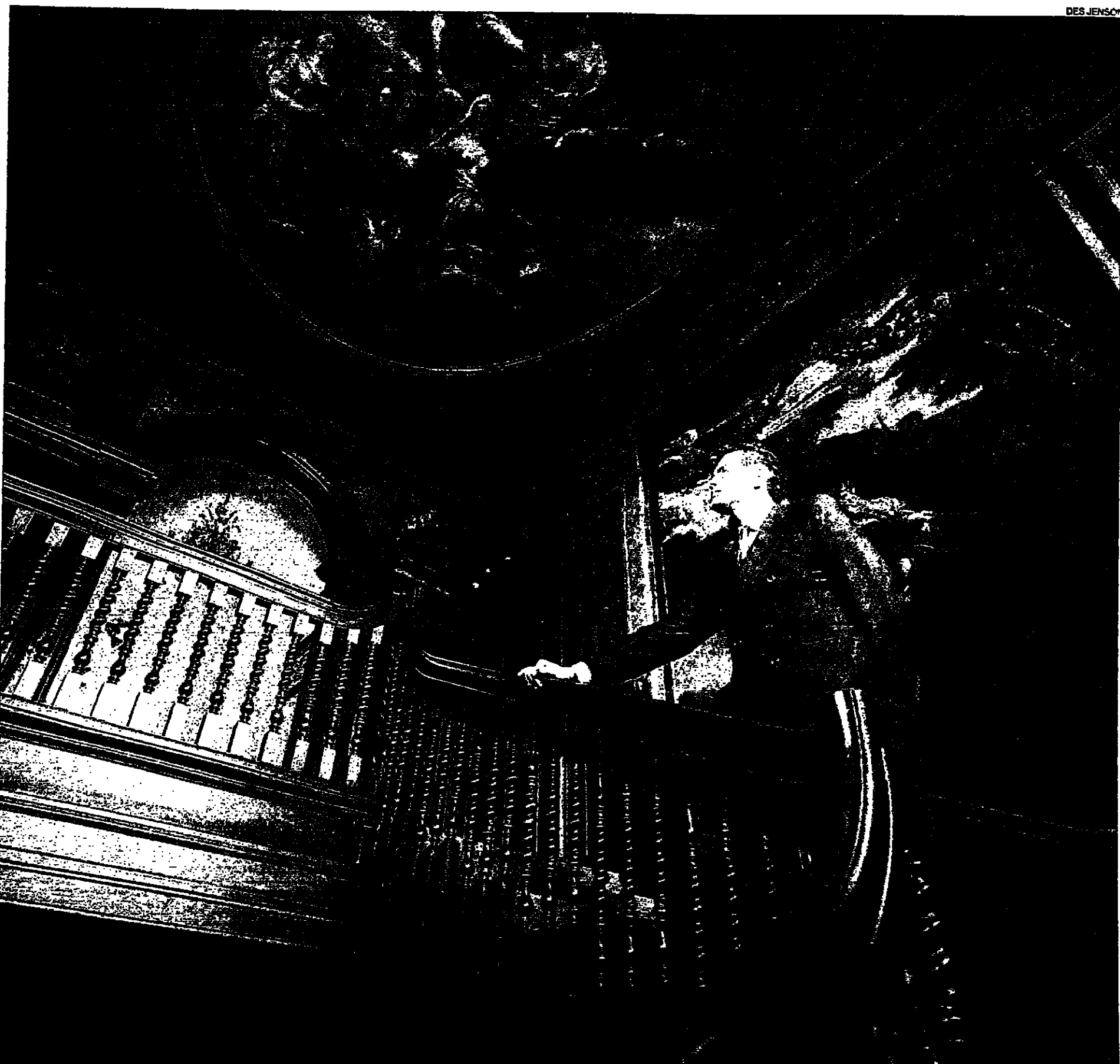
Lots of rooms with a view

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

HERTFORDSHIRE • An exceptional 17th-century Grade II* listed country house, with historic, decorated stairwell rated among the best-designed and preserved late 17th-century murals in England, set in delightful formal gardens and grounds • Reception hall, staircase hall, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, study, snooker room • Large kitchen, breakfast room, utility room • Master bedroom suite, guest bedroom suite with sitting room, five further principal bedrooms, four further bedrooms (all en suite) • Staff quarters comprising two bedrooms, bathroom, living room, kitchenette • Large wine cellar, storerooms, boiler room, garaging, paddock • In all, about seven acres.



The imposing sitting room of Northaw Place (above) and the magnificent, curved stairway, impressively decorated by Louis Leguerre with 17th-century murals said to be among best-designed and preserved in England



I wasn't sure, to be honest, if I wanted to share my house with two topless women. They were reassuringly Rubenesque but meeting two pairs of nipples on the way downstairs every morning, even if they are part of a historic set of 17th-century murals, could put you off your breakfast. However, to have your staircase decorated by Louis Leguerre, the artist who painted the murals at Blenheim Palace and Chatsworth House, has to be a bit of a coup by anyone's standards.

Northaw Place, to which the murals are attached, is a Grade II* listed house in the village of Northaw, just outside Potters Bar in Hertfordshire, and is for sale at £1.8 million. Originally built in 1697 for Sir George Hutchins, a prominent lawyer and court official, it was occupied throughout the 18th century by a succession of wealthy London merchants.

During the 19th century it was substantially altered, first by a Thomas Gould, and more extensively about 1900, when it was converted to a prep school. It has, in short, had a bit of a past: the records show the house has never been used by one family as a residence for more than 41 years.

The saving grace for the house, which might otherwise have suffered from the sub-Arctic temperatures, prehistoric plumbing and general taintiness that go hand in hand with most stately homes, was being bought by the present owner who, Damien from the estate

agents would only tell me, was a successful businessman. I had already got the message that this was a man concerned about his privacy having negotiated two sets of electronic security gates.

When Mr SB bought the house it was a shell: he has transformed it into a warm, luxurious living machine.

The ground floor is effectively divided between three grand, formal and elegant reception rooms, which would impress even an Arab sheikh, and two more intimate family rooms — a vast kitchen-cum-dining room, warmly decorated with the honey-coloured quarry tiles, and a (relatively) small family sitting room, sunny and overlooking the garden.

Much of the charm of the rooms lies in some skilful furnishing, including obvious mementoes from trips abroad but, as a buyer, at least you would get the carpets and fashionably long curtains. (An American woman who was shown round apparently said: "Hey, what a pity they didn't get the length right.")

Up the fabled staircase, past the bosoms, are the bedrooms. Bedrooms I emphasise — all seven of them, most the size of a 16-bed dormitory (as, indeed, many of them probably were). All had their own en suite or adjoining bathrooms with not just a bath, a lavatory and a bidet but a state-of-the-art shower. I noticed that many of the fittings were different from



Relaxing: a spacious, luxurious bathroom made for two

the diagrams in the agent's details — presumably the owner got bored with the corner baths (very 1993), ripped them out and started all over again.

What is really impressive about the house is the attention to detail. Nothing that could contribute in the smallest way to the comfort of its inhabitants had been overlooked. There were boys' things, such as a comfortable study (computer, fax, sofas to relax), and a movie-set billiards room. There were girls' things: enough wardrobes to house Imelda Staunton's entire shoe collection, a dream of a kitchen with an electric cooker and an Aga

and a charcoal grill, a laundry room with two washing machines, and a walk-in airing cupboard with rows and rows of neatly pressed bed sheets.

There is, fortunately, space for a housekeeper, and one currently occupies the staff quarters in the basement. Apart from the study, the billiards room and the dining room, the house is painted and carpeted in pastels, a feature that contributes to the overall impression of light and airiness, but which would be a trial to any less scrupulously well-behaved household.

The house shows few signs (apart from some endear-

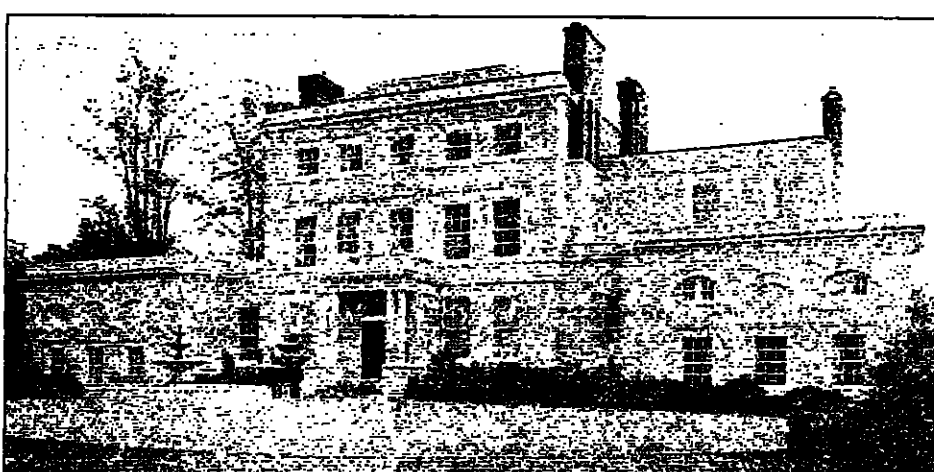
ingly well cuddled woolly elephants in one of the bedrooms) of having been inhabited by four teenage daughters. The sugar pink carpets in two of their rooms were immaculate. How do these girls manage it?

Should Northaw Place sound too perfect there are, for me, two drawbacks. The garden, though well maintained, hasn't had the same care lavished on it as the house (there's little incentive to go out of doors), and for some the neighbours may be a tad too close for comfort. The brochure implies that the house stands on its own in the seven-acre grounds but the developers who owned it before built a courtyard of six other houses alongside.

There's plenty of lawn, however, which would be handy for croquet or for pitching a large marquee, as well as — something I have always longed for — a ha-ha. And even though the grounds aren't hugely extensive, the house overlooks countryside and farmland.

It's easy to forget that you're only a mile and a half from the M25, 16 miles from the centre of London and a mere 40 minutes from Heathrow, assuming the M25 is not at a standstill. But then, if you lived at Northaw you could simply jump into your private plane.

● Northaw Place is for sale through Knight Frank, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, (01494 675366).



A PICTURE OF BRITAIN'S WILD PLANT LIFE SAVE £5 ON FLORA BRITANNICA BY RICHARD MABEY

Flora Britannica, the definitive new guide to wild flowers, plants and trees, illustrated with more than 450 colour pictures, will be regarded as a classic for many years to come. *Times* readers can buy it for just £25 including p&p (mrrp £30).

Flora Britannica is the fruit of a five-year project to create a cultural flora for Britain undertaken by the author and broadcaster Richard Mabey. It is an account of the role of wild plants in our social lives, our arts, our customs and our landscape.

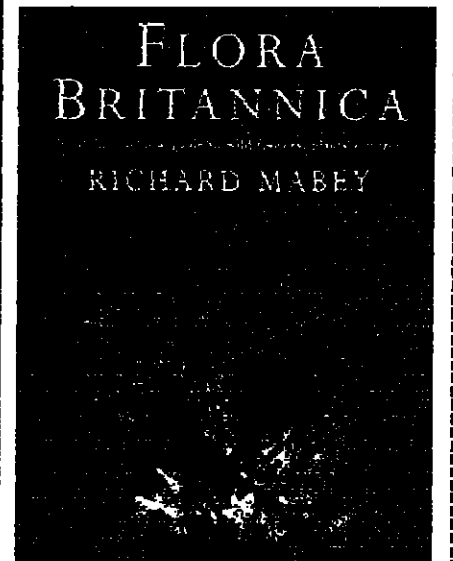
It is a work of imagination and scholarship as well as reportage, the culmination of Mabey's research and thinking over the last 20 years.

His research aroused popular interest and

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PROPERTY ANSWERS

Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent, replies to your queries

Q Prompted by rumours that recent droughts have led to houses cracking up, we did a quick recc of ours and found half a dozen hairline cracks. Help!

A Most houses have cracks and if none of yours are wider than 5mm it is unlikely that they are caused by subsidence. Pointers include whether the cracks show inside and out; extend through into the foundations; are narrower at one end than at the other; and whether windows and doors are distorted or floors slope. If you are still worried, phone the Building Research Establishment (0171-505 6622) for a copy of its leaflet *Cracks Caused by Foundation Movement*, price £3.85.

Q My husband and I are thinking of emigrating to a warmer climate — South Africa and New Zealand are our favourite options. Where do we start?

A First, check with the respective embassies that you are eligible for emigration. The New Zealand Immigration Service (0171-973 0366)

supplies a self-assessment guide. For property information, send an SAE for the free publications *Destination New Zealand* and *Life in New Zealand* — which also have a limited list of some agents — to: New Zealand Immigration Service, New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TQ. Knight Frank has three offices in New Zealand: Auckland (00 64 9 30 77882), Wellington (00 64 4 472 3529) and Christchurch (00 64 3 379 9787).

The South African High Commission has an information pack, *South Africa News*, specifically for Britons, and relevant pages of *Yellow Pages* for agents. In Britain, the Commission recommends the agents Pam Golding International (0171-629 2283) and Peter Chamberlain of Realty 1 DRR (01283 716091).

Q I want to let my two-bedroomed flat and have heard that some agents will pay for refurbishment. Is this a good idea?

A Malcolm Harrison, of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA), says: "I have heard of such offers, usually from agents trying to break into the market, but no reputable agent would do this. Such offers may not be soundly based." If you are worried by the state of your property, try to work out if its decor reflects the value of the property. An ARLA booklet, *Trouble-free letting: What every landlord and tenant should ask*, is free to tenants and landlords. For a copy, send an SAE, to: ARLA, Maple House, 53-55 Woodside Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 6AA.

Q Someone told me that the most expensive flats are those on the first floor, and the higher you go the cheaper they become. Is this true?

A It depends on the type of flat. Robin Bailey, of the agents Strutt and Parker, says: "In period house conversions, the ground and first-floor flats are more expensive because they normally grander, with larger rooms, higher ceilings, possibly a garden, but no stairs to climb. For apartment blocks the opposite is generally true. Flats above the second or third floors are often brighter, quieter, safer and might offer a good view." This is the general price rule, but it is open to exceptions; a top-floor flat in a period house with a spacious roof garden might well fetch more than the flat on the first floor.

● Property Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures cannot be returned.

Better transport and shopping has brought back home-buyers to London's riverfront

Tide turns for Docklands

ADRIAN BROOKS



Going with the flow: Barbara Dunford, who bought a flat to use as a second home in a waterfront block at Surrey Quays, spends weekends with her family in Hampshire

FOR SALE

AROUND £330,000



LINCOLNSHIRE
The Cottage, South Rauceby, nr. Skeffington. 17th-century country house in just over an acre of landscaped gardens in a secluded village setting. Six bedrooms (some with dressing rooms), two bathrooms, drawing room, dining room, boot room, lamp room, kitchen, pantry, utility room and cellar. About £380,000 (Savills, 01522 534891).



SCOTLAND
Coul House, by Abeyne, Aberdeenshire. Imposing mansion in 5.3 acres of garden and woodland, in a secluded position in Deeside. Six bedrooms, three bathrooms (one en suite), playroom, two office rooms, dining room, drawing room, study, library, kitchen and domestic offices. Two three-bedroom self-contained flats. Outbuildings. Offers over £300,000 (Savills, 01355 622187).



SUFFOLK
Kedington House, Kedington. Early Victorian house in 3.7 acres of landscaped gardens and paddocks, on the edge of the village. Five bedrooms, two en suite shower-rooms, bathroom, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility and conservatory. About £335,000 (Savills, 01223 322955).

CHERYL TAYLOR

For those who want their first home to be more than a shoe-box, and for commuters seeking a London base, Docklands has become desirable again. House-buyers and developers are returning, thanks to changes in improved transport, commercial growth and the potential pull of the Millennium celebrations at Greenwich. And the building boom is producing a new generation of homes.

In the early 1980s, the London Docklands Development Council was so frantic to get development off the ground that planning permission was easy to get. Now the LDDC is much stricter and more design-conscious. James Birkett, of the LDDC, says: "I think we are a bit embarrassed about some of the schemes in the 1980s but, on the other hand, there's Cascades, a scheme near Butler's Wharf, which won lots of awards."

New schemes are marked by their simplicity. This is

partly because of changing tastes, but also about making flats cheaper. A new generation of home-owners has skipped the first rungs of the housing market and is moving straight into two or three-bedroom flats. Nor do they wish to pay £2,000 a year in service charges for gyms and swimming pools. They welcome basement parking, instead.

The brickwork now is often a traditional London yellow and roofs shallow. There are terraces rather than balconies, French windows rather than porches, and natural rather than primary colours. A total of 868 new homes are expected to be completed this year. Of these, 854 were sold in the six months to the end of June.

Key developers are Galliard, Barratt, Regalian and Bellway Homes. Robert Barlow, of Barratt, says that his company has 28-30 per cent of the market there and "just can't build fast enough".

New schemes include a development by the architects CZWG for Barratt's Riverside Properties at Dundee Wharf of 127 flats and five houses, and four new developments on the Rotherhithe riverfront for Barratt. Yolande Barnes, head of research at Savills, estimates that more than 5,200 new properties are due to come on the market in the Docklands area by 1999 — and that's just the developments Savills knows about.

For potential buyers thinking about transport, the Docklands Light Railway has been upgraded to the tune of £700 million, with a new fleet of trains, automatic train-control system and a timetable running seven days a week, 364 days a year. A 4.2 kilometre (2.6 mile) extension to Lewisham is due to open in 1999. The average

'IT'S VIBRANT AND A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE'

SIX months ago, Barbara Dunford, 39, chief executive of the marketing organisation London Medicine, bought a two-bedroom flat on the second floor of a waterfront block at Brunswick Quay, overlooking Greenland Dock, Surrey Quays, to use as a second home. Cheryl Taylor writes.

"When I landed my first job in London four years ago, I decided to rent a pied-à-terre somewhere central during the week, rather than spend hours on the train commuting from Portsmouth. But, the last thing I wanted at the end of a long day was to sit in a poky place looking out at the traffic, so Fulham and Putney were out, at least in my price range. It also needed to be a safe area for a woman living alone," she says.

After renting in Docklands for the past three years, paying £650 a month for a small flat in Brunswick Quay, Mrs Dunford paid £74,000 for a flat in the same area, which includes a car parking space. Her family home is a four-bedroom detached house in Waterloo.



New development at Rotherhithe

ville, Hampshire, where she spends weekends with her husband Steve, a design engineer, and two teenage sons.

"From an investment point of view Docklands is good value. It is cheaper to buy than to rent. It is also a wonderful place to live — light, airy and vibrant. The City and the West End are on our doorstep, and smart shops, bars and restaurants a short walk away. And, I have a wonderful view over water," she says.

"I can sit on my balcony in summer after a hard day in the office, gin and tonic in hand, watching people windsurfing in the dock. It is very relaxing. I love it. I often work late and feel safer walking from Surrey Quays to my flat here than I do in Portsmouth. It is well lit, and there are always lots of people around," she says.

At present, it takes 40 minutes from home to work at her office near Bond Street, a tortuous route by bus and train, but when the Jubilee Line to Canada Water opens in 1998, her travelling time will be cut to 20 minutes, door-to-door.

journey time from Bank to Canary Wharf is now 12 minutes.

The extension of the Jubilee Line to the area is on schedule for March 1998. Ms Barnes says that Narrow Street, Limehouse, Rotherhithe and Bermondsey will be among the main beneficiaries. For road users, the Limehouse road link is providing access to the City.

For shopping facilities, Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Kwik-Save have arrived. Rents have taken off, too. Five years ago, Knight Frank had few buildings to rent on its books. Today it splits its business 50-50. Examples of rents include a two-bedroom former show flat with river view at Trafalgar Court for £350 a week, and a one-bedroom flat near Wapping

Tube station for £210 a week. There are two buses, however. Notably absent from the area are families, largely because of the dearth of schools and facilities for children. And however much agents and the LDDC talk up the area, prices are still below their 1988 peak, though about 20 per cent up on their 1992 low. Take the circle development in Shad Thames, for example. In 1988 a flat there cost £200,000, in 1992 the same flat cost £70,000, and now costs £110,000, according to the agents Cluttons.

RACHEL KELLY

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BARBARA Remodelled and redecorated for quick sale, prop. Capital Property, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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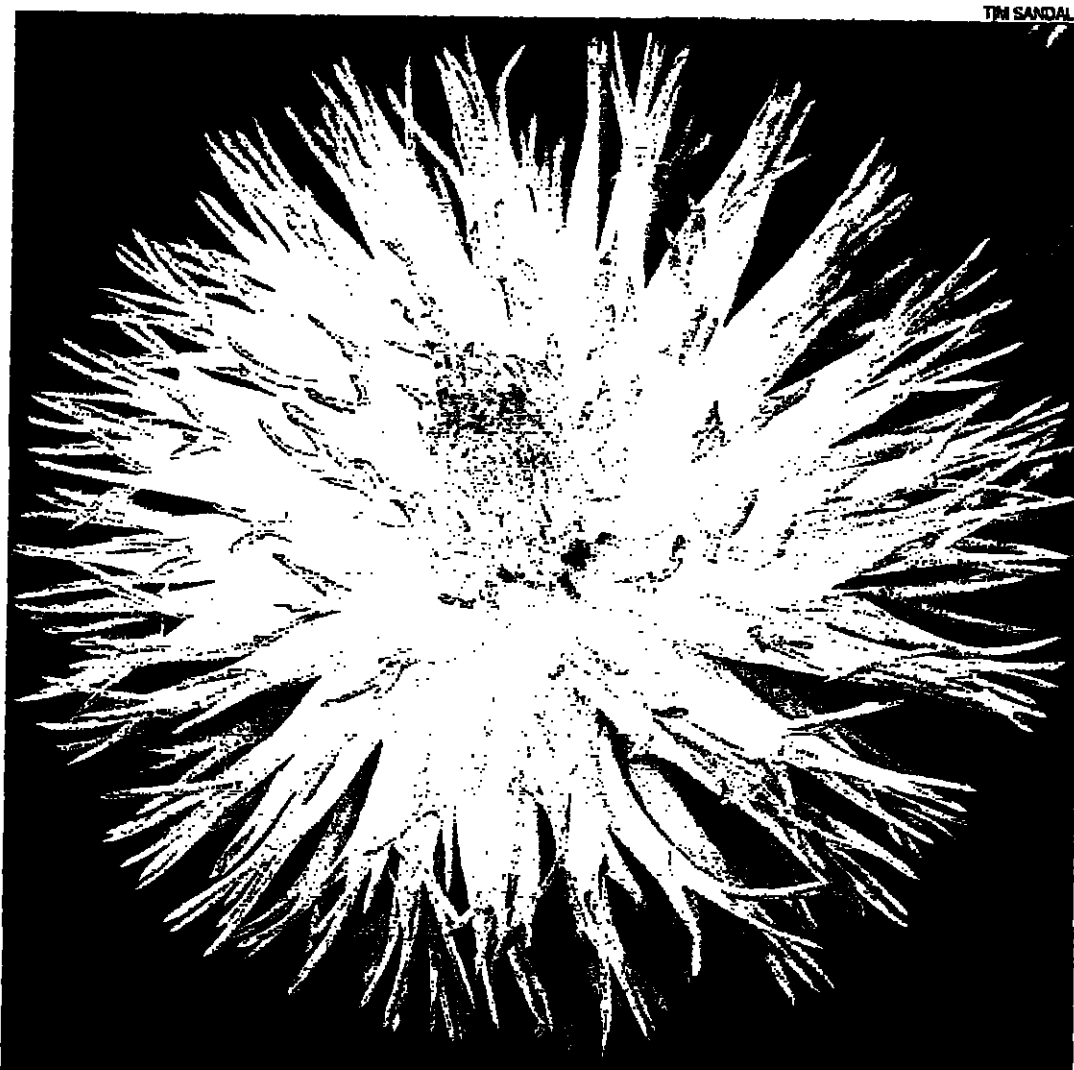
The root of the problem

Nigel Colborn in praise of the much-maligned dahlia — as vibrant showstopper or elegant addition to smart borders



Alan Buller measures 'Sylvia's Desire' with a "ring of doom"

Dahlias bright and beautiful



Dahlias were discovered in Mexico in 1788 by Baron Humboldt. This one is 'Marlene Joy'



Howard Lane, Terry Gillam and Brian Madders judging blooms

I'm off to the Dahlia Show, I said the other day. "Humph!" snorted my haughty gardening acquaintance. "Never look for subtlety in a dahlia — gross, garish things quite without charm." Rather too sweeping a condemnation, I felt, especially when one considers what a long and distinguished record the genus has.

In their native state, dahlias are among the daintiest and most alluring of the Central American wildflowers, but garden forms have been bred to exhibit almost every imaginable colour, shape and flower size, from tiny rounded pompons to giants that look like ill-chosen wedding hats. Some are, frankly, horrible, but of the 500 or more varieties offered by nurseries to amateur gardeners, there remains a mouth-watering selection of cultivars whose elegance could not fail to please the most refined of gardening tastes.

Dahlias have an aristocratic history. The genus is named after Dr Dahl, a pupil of Linnaeus, but was discovered in Mexico in 1788 by Baron Humboldt. The first plants came to Spain, from where the Marchioness of Bute acquired specimens for Britain. These were lost, but the genus was reintroduced in 1804 by Lady Holland and, by the 1830s, three wild species had been distributed around Europe and were used to produce interesting new crosses. Natural variations in colours and shapes gave the dahlia huge potential for further hybridisation and for more than a century, as fancy varieties proliferated, dahlias grew in popularity not only as garden plants, but also for exhibition.

CHIC DAHLIAS

- Pure species for normal garden hybrids: vivid scarlet, single blooms
- *Dahlia merckii*: soft lilac blooms with golden centres
- Seed raised for bedding, sow indoors in late winter
- 'Redskin': compact, all hues
- 'Dwarf delight': very compact
- For mixed borders: 'Bishop of Llandaff': Purple-black foliage, scarlet blooms
- 'Porcelain': white, rounded petals blushed with mauve.

erated, dahlias grew in popularity not only as garden plants, but also for exhibition.

In the 1950s, every front garden — even the humblest and scruffiest — would sport dahlias. Cottage gardeners planted them among leeks and cabbages; suburbanites bordered their drives with them and public parks bedded them by the acre. On and on, they would bloom, opening flowers day after day through October until the first air frost of autumn converted all their colour into black mush (see Weekend Tips, opposite). But, by the end of the 1960s, when gardening turned lazy and staking, tying, disbudding and earwig control began to look too much like hard work, the dahlia slipped into decline, never to regain its former popularity.

Heralding this change in fashion, the most genteel of our garden gurus began to damn

dahlias more roundly than they deserved. Their strong colours, we were told, and outsized flowers failed to sit comfortably in those romantic plantings championed by the neo-Jekyllites. Unjust, of course, because the genus is so varied that there are kinds to suit every gardening style; but the mud stuck and dahlias became a minority interest.

Go to a "dahlia only" show, however, and you will be staggered by the diversity. Rank upon rank of blooms greeted me at the

National Dahlia Show held at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall in Westminster at the beginning of October. How their brightness contrasted with the grey, tired faces of the exhibitors, most of whom had been up all night staging their, hopefully, prize-winning blooms. And herein, I suspect, lies the cause of their decline as garden plants. There are dahlias for exhibitions and dahlias for gardens but never the twain... Show dahlias are raised as a hobby — horticultural,

certainly, but more akin to whipper breeding than to the artistic planting design so loved by the genteel classes. George Tomlinson, a fanatical amateur from Cheshire who has exhibited prize blooms for 40 years, told me that to raise dahlias you need to debranch and disbud. Allow only three branches and disbud these to the last bloom. Three flowers per plant, and that's your lot. Then there's the need to cover plants with polythene — hardly conducive to ornamental garden-

ing, George agrees, "but for kicks, there's nothing to beat growing exhibition dahlias," he says.

The shiniest example of dedication was Richard Thomas, a Sussex shepherd who, between looking after a thousand ewes, devotes almost every moment of his spare time to raising show dahlias. "I manage half an hour with my plants each day at tea-time," he says, "20 minutes after lunch and usually an hour when I finish work around ten in the evening." I ask, "Just from the three sheep dogs," he replies.

Dahlia judges are sticklers for bloom size. I watched Alan Buller, a retired policeman with resplendent side whiskers, holding measuring rings over what looked like perfect flowers. There is a two-inch tolerance — too large or too small, and the entry is disqualified. And boy are they strict. Jack Wood, regular correspondent for *Garden News* — the showman's bible — calls the judges "horticultural traffic wardens," and their measuring devices "the rings of doom."

"But what about an ordinary gardener like me?" I ask a gaggle of exhibitors. "What varieties should I grow in my borders?" At first they look at me with puzzled faces. They wonder how I could think of a life where one does not work through the night picking, prinking and displaying blooms before judges arrive early next morning. "Collarettes," suggests one. "Waterlily class," says another, and they point out,

among the shouting colours, a collection of flowers so demure and elegant in shape that one could hardly believe they were dahlias. The most alluring, Elizabeth Snowden, had a flushed white flower with small central florets surrounding golden stamens. There were others — a primrose collarette, 'Claire de Lune', waterlily kinds in pastel hues and small "cactus" dahlias with thin, tubular petals, as good for gardens as for exhibitions.

To my surprise, I watched the panel of judges select for Best Bloom in Show, not a huge bronze monster but one of these — a pale mauve and white cactus variety called 'Kiwi Gloria', good enough to grace the smartest of borders.

I had hoped to see wild species at the show, especially the scarlet *Dahlia coccinea* or the mauve *D. merckii*. But they were absent, as were the prettier bedding series and such old-fashioned kinds as the dark-leaved red-flowered 'Bishop of Llandaff'. Noting their absence I questioned an exhibitor. "Oh you'll not find anything like that here," he retorted, "those are more yer garden plants."

PETS THAT NEED PEOPLE: WOULD YOU ADOPT A DOG?
Page 11

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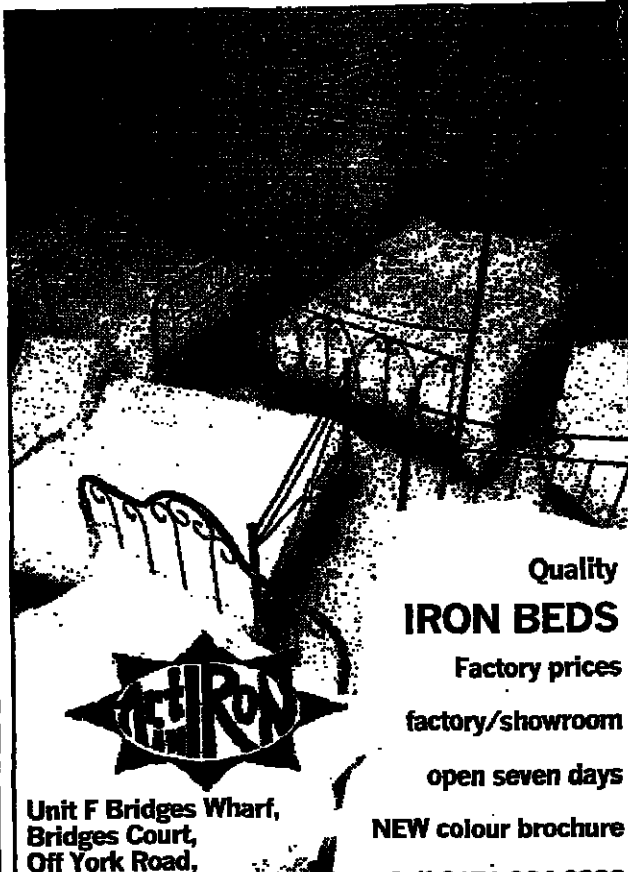
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Dog tired of being homeless

Dogs with image problems can still make excellent pets

Stinky had the sort of image problem spin doctors dread. "When he came to us he had bad skin, cankerous ears, overgrown nails and smelt terribly," says Fiona Macdonald at the National Canine Defence League rescue centre in Shoreham-by-sea, West Sussex.

The 12-year-old black Labrador cross was not the most immediately appealing of pets but after several baths, treatment from the vet and local publicity he has gone to a loving home. He is now called Percy. Sadly not all

animals are adopted so quickly. Jo Crozier at the RSPCA headquarters in Horsham, West Sussex, says: "If they're fluffy and cute there's usually no problem finding owners. It's the less attractive and older dogs that people are not so interested in but they're just as deserving of a good home and they've often had a very hard time already. Many are abandoned and many are cruelty cases." Last year the RSPCA rehomed 81,943 animals. Rehoming, though, is not just about people choosing the pets they want. It's also a case of whether prospective owners can offer the right environment.

The RSPCA carries out home checks on all would-be owners of dogs, and sometimes cats. But because its 200 branches are registered as separate charities, rules on rehoming vary. Some branches will not allow cats to go to homes on main roads. Some will not allow puppies or certain breeds to go to families with children. The animal's welfare is top priority and that's how the type of accommodation is considered," Mrs Crozier says. The price of animals varies but is usually around £35-£40 for a cat and £70 for a dog.

The RSPCA issues a leaflet, *A Pet Of Your Own?*, which tells people what to consider before taking on an animal. "Pet ownership takes time, money, commitment and patience. It will change your life," it warns.

Ros Bicen knows all about this because in the past two years she has taken in three dogs and three cats from rescue centres. Tootsie is a three-year-old crossbred terrier which had been badly neglected and had never been house trained. Sherry is an 11-year-old Springer Spaniel which had no fur and was emaciated and without muscle when it came to the RSPCA centre.

"Sherry hadn't been paid any attention at all and had never been walked. When I let her off the lead she had no idea how to respond. There are many animals at the centres which have no problems but I know from experience that if they do have problems you can get over them with care, time, perseverance and affection. My dogs have given me back far more than I've ever given them," says Mrs Bicen, who helps at a rescue centre. The UK's largest dog welfare charity is the National

Canine Defence League. It has 15 rescue centres and about 2,000 dogs at a time for rehoming. Would-be owners are asked to contribute towards vaccinations and neutering. The charity issues guidelines for the care of rescue dogs and a particular leaflet for greyhounds and hushers. Greyhounds, in particular, are often at the bottom of the pile when it comes to choosing dogs for rehoming. People feel that they need a great deal of exercise but in fact they need two short walks a day.

People are often put off by an animal's appearance — they prefer cuddly dogs, not sporting ones. Rescue centres agree, however, that greyhounds make good pets, just as older animals can. One way that the league encourages rehoming of mature dogs is through fostering. The league's Linda Capel says: "A lot of people might be put off taking these animals because of the

possibility of vet fees. Fostering enables the dog to be rehomed but we will pay vet fees if the dog needs treatment." There is another way to help animals. Dog lovers who are unable to keep a dog at home can sponsor one at a rescue centre. On October 20, Battersea Dogs Home will open a £6 million kennel for 380 dogs. The average stay for dogs at the home is 40 days, but some are there for more than a year. Dogs cost £35-£70, which includes all injections and for the first three months owners can bring dogs back for free veterinary care. Dolly, a six-year-old bull terrier, featured on the BBC television programme *Animal Hospital*, was seen by the children's author and book illustrator Lisa Kopper. "When Dolly appeared on television she was in an appalling state. But as soon as I saw her I said 'that's my dog'. She has lots of character," Ms Kopper says. Mabel is another dog which found a new home, thanks to the BBC. The border collie cross was found abandoned in filthy conditions in an empty flat just before Christmas by the RSPCA. Mabel is now resident on *Blue Peter*. "We're very pleased. Having a rescued mongrel on *Blue Peter* sets an excellent example," an RSPCA spokesman says.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

Help for hogs
THE British Hedgehog Preservation Society invites Pet News readers to send for free leaflets on how to care for hedgehogs, plus car stickers saying "Don't Squash Me". Write to the society at Knowbury House, Shropshire SY8 3LQ.

JACK CROSSLEY

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Baldyman likes cats

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PET NEWS

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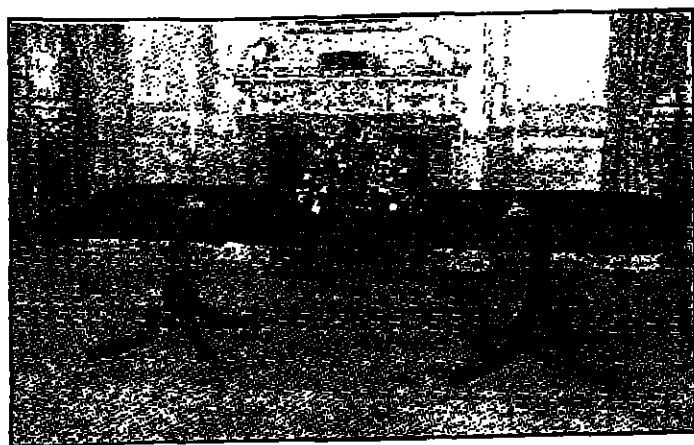
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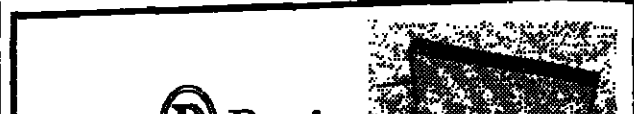


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The slug that will move at more than 300mph

Page 3



How Toad got back on the road in style

Page 5



SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

One man's problems began with an £11m lottery win. Jennai Cox and Kevin Eason on a chapter of accidents

It could be you . . . unfortunately, it was



Karl Crompton and one of the Porsches that he bought with his winnings. His current personal transport is a 50cc moped borrowed from a friend until he is back on two legs again

Karl Crompton's luck on the road ran out the day he picked up his lottery cheque for £11 million. The money was his chance to indulge a lifelong passion for fast cars and motorbikes.

But as he nursed his battered and bruised body yesterday, Karl was contemplating an immediate future confined to taxis shuttling him back and forth between his luxurious home and the studios of Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*, where he is a presenter.

Because each time he buys another exotic bike or high-powered car, something goes horribly wrong. Karl, 23, appears to be Britain's unluckiest lucky man every time he gets behind the wheel of a car or straddles a motorcycle.

Even he admits: "I don't know what happened to me over the past five months since I won the lottery. I have just become so accident prone."

Today, the numbers for the 100th National Lottery will be drawn, a competition that has given dozens of people the money to buy the cars they always dreamt of. Karl was no different: as soon as he had picked up his cheque in May, he was in the showrooms.

But that was when the problems started:

● A motorcycling enthusiast, Karl's first buy was a Suzuki GSXR

750. Within hours of being delivered, it was smashed to bits and thrown into a hedge by vandals who caused hundreds of pounds' worth of damage.

● As soon as the Suzuki was fixed, he took it to the Donington race track in the Midlands to enjoy the power of his new toy. "I hadn't ridden for a couple of years and I thought I could do with the practice," he says. He obviously could — because he crashed. "The bike just went from under me." He wasn't hurt, but the Suzuki was in a bad way . . . again.

● As a potential customer, he decided to give a Porsche 911 a test drive at Oulton Park in Cheshire. That's a 170mph 911 . . . on a race track: you guessed, it went wrong again. "The instructor was telling me to go faster and faster. He kept saying: 'Put your foot down!'" Karl did and the car was soon going round the circuit but in ever-decreasing circles. Fortunately, car and driver emerged shaken but unhurt.

● After that experience, Karl decided he was safer on the bike and took to the Suzuki again. The afternoon was sunny and all was well until he skidded and crashed into on-coming traffic. This time the results were serious. "I was lying in the road in absolute agony, grabbing my leg while passers-by were helping people out of the car I

crashed with," he says. The driver and passenger of the car were unhurt, but Karl had to go to hospital to have a dislocated shoulder put back into place under anaesthetic and an operation to have metal rods inserted into his left leg to help repair torn knee ligaments.

After three weeks in plaster, Karl faces months of physiotherapy — and time to contemplate the rest of his motorcycling life. "It is so frustrating not being able to drive," he says, "especially with the machines I still have around waiting for me."

Those machines are a beautiful £17,500 Ducati 916SP motorcycle and a 155mph BMW M3 convertible, which he bought for £48,000 as a runabout, which both stand unused in the garage.

If that is not enough to bear, Karl has been forced to use a slightly more humble mode of personal transport to get him around his home town of Blackpool: a 50cc moped. He did not even have to dip into his £11 million fortune for his 30mph machine, simply borrowing it from a pal until he is back on two legs again. He says: "I can manage all right if I sit well back so I can balance my crutches. It is not quite so exciting — well, maybe for the first two weeks."



Changing wheels: Karl with his Suzuki . . . and leaving hospital with a broken leg



NOTHING FANCY



Daniels: "It might have upset the neighbours"



Ryan, left: "They just stand in the garage"

Not every lottery winner is in a Rolls-Royce showroom within minutes of getting the big prize. Some winners have more humble aspirations and choose everything from a scooter to a caravan.

Brian Daniels, who won £500,000, refused to splash out on anything exotic and decided to buy a new Ford Maverick and a Bailey Pageant Champagne caravan so he and wife Penny could tour Holland. "We didn't want a posh new car — it might have upset the neighbours," Penny says.

True love also knows no motoring bounds: Craig Bennett, 25, won £12,000 and bought his girlfriend, Sue Newman, a Piaggio Typhoon Sport 50cc scooter — then bought two for himself, abandoning his £200 banger for a Vespa TS 125cc and a P200 moped. Neil Hyatt, 19, was also unimpressed with his £100,000: he bought his little £5,000 Fiat Cinquecento new fog lights, a body kit and a £2,500 car stereo system.

Cars, though, were too painful to contemplate for Lee Ryan. He won £6.2 million but also got a conviction for handling stolen cars around the same time. He has now sold all the cars he bought with his fortune — including a £180,000 Ferrari Testarossa — to rid himself of bad memories and intends to take to the skies instead in helicopters. The 33-year-old says roads are too clogged to enjoy supercars anyway: "You lose so much money on them and half the time they just stand in the garage."

LOTTERY GEAR

- Most popular cars with lottery winners are Mercedes, BMWs and Jaguars.
- After a new house, buying a car is the most popular luxury winners spend money on.
- Thirty million people play the lottery weekly, spending £6.7 billion over the first 100 weeks plus another £2.02 billion on scratch cards.
- There have been more than 120 million lottery wins — though most are for £10, enough for three gallons of petrol and a bit over to spend in the forecourt shop.
- Lottery grants have gone to the Museum of Transport in Basingstoke (£5.5 million), the National Motor Museum (£250,000) plus £70,000 for another museum in Scotland.

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CAR 96

What is the possible point of taking away a licence from some joyrider who simply ignores it in the first place?

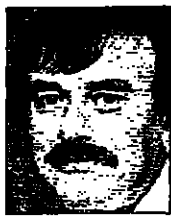
Frankly, they don't give a damn

Two items of news and a television documentary this week have produced some interesting revelations about the British attitude to cars, crime and links between the two. The Government's proposal to take away the driving licences of people who commit burglaries sounds reasonable enough on first hearing, but turns into a nonsensical piece of populism after a minute's thought.

Part of the reason why the proposal is silly was to be found in a BBC documentary, *X Cars*, on Monday night. Another factor was raised in a news item on Tuesday, when the Police Complaints Authority called for a review of procedure in chasing stolen vehicles after a patrol car ran into the back of an innocent driver's vehicle during a chase, killing the driver.

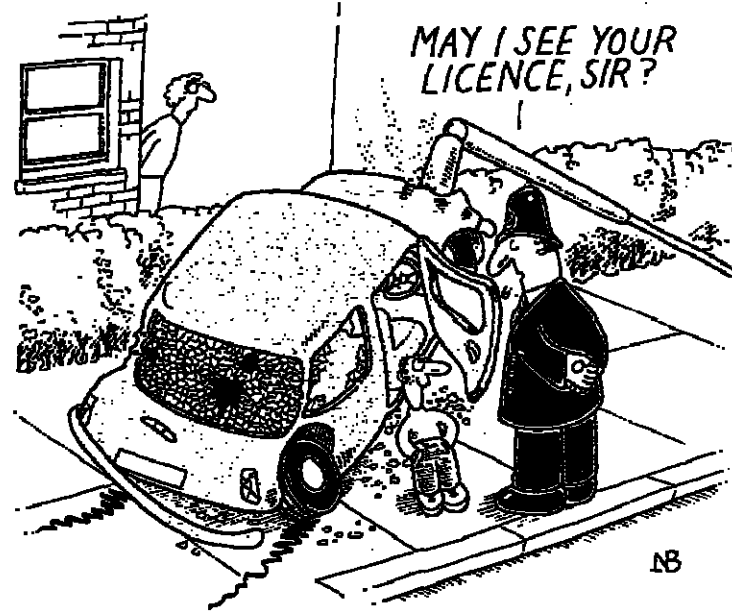
An increasing number of burglaries are committed by teenagers, many of them too young to hold a driving licence. Therefore the courts would be taking away something that the burglars do not possess. One can reasonably assume that many of

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

the teenagers looting houses for video recorders, television sets and the like have with them a vehicle in which these items can be taken away — quite often, a stolen car. Which brings me to *X Cars*. Here we saw frightening examples of the real, the underlying problem of crime, which is that the individuals who commit these crimes are completely devoid of any fear that they might be caught, or of what might happen to them when they are.



MAY I SEE YOUR LICENCE, SIR?

I do not know the details, but I do know that the police face a dilemma. The speed of any car chase is dictated by the pursued car. Are the police to give up chasing criminals when there might be danger to innocent parties? If so, they are handing our streets over to joyriders and others: would their unhampered activities behind the wheel be less likely to lead to deaths?

All of this matters. We are paying higher insurance premiums. The owners of the parked cars we saw wrecked on TV by joyriders devoid of insurance will find themselves either paying for repairs themselves or having their premiums hiked. If caught, the joyrider gets probation.

Mr Howard may get a round of applause for saying that burglars will lose their licences, but the real problem is that the existing law is not enforced. A police superintendent pointed out this week that whereas the maximum sentence for burglary is 14 years in jail, the average sentence for a burglar committing his third offence is 18 months, of which he will serve nine.

The level of crime in this country is undoubtedly exaggerated by meaningless statistical comparisons, but to the extent that there is a crime explosion it certainly involves thefts of, and from, cars. Taking away a document from people who regard bureaucracy as a joke is merely painting rotten wood.

In one case I watched a Greater Manchester Police patrol car chasing a car driven by an individual who looked to be about 16 or 17. The chase happened at high speed through busy streets at night. The driver of the car in question not only kept going, he also found time to give the rest of us a clear indication of his attitude to the police, or any other authority. At various times he craned his neck out of the window, shouting at the police officers. When

he was not doing that, his right arm was extended through the window making gestures which I do not need to describe here. This does not suggest he had the least concern for the police, the law, any judge he might face, or the rest of the population. The case of the driver who died after being hit by a police car during a chase is, of course, tragic and I see that the PCA believes the police car was being driven at an "indefensible" speed. I cannot speak to that for

Addressing the problem

Your car insurance may cost a lot more than for another driver just like you. It depends on the street where you live, says Kevin Eason

Drivers in some parts of Britain are condemned to paying insurance policies more than £280 a year higher than in other areas. A survey by the AA shows huge regional differences in insurance costs, with motorists paying the price for living in danger cities where car crime is rife and the likelihood of accidents is higher.

While the driver of a second-hand Ford Escort in Liverpool has to find £302 for his annual comprehensive cover, the driver of the same car in Aberdeen will pay £129 for exactly the same policy. In fact, premiums in Aberdeen have dropped in the six months since March by an average £29, a signal that those areas with the best records are enjoying steadily

while costs fell in 28 areas. Where premiums were up, the typical increase was between £5 and £7, although Middlesbrough, 15th in the league, had suffered a rise of £18 to an average £211.

Living in a city centre exposes motorists to more chance of car crime, while the opportunity for collecting an unfortunate ding to the bodywork is enormous on congested and often narrow streets. According to the AA, drivers in city centres pay on average £40 a year more than motorists who escape to the suburbs — and the gap is widening.

Premiums for the sample Ford Escort for the AA's typical couple who live in a city centre average £236 compared with just £196 for the couple who move to leafy suburbs. Six months ago, those premiums were £238 and £212 — a gap of just £26. Brummies living in the tough, inner-city district of Balsall Heath could save £84 a year by decamping to relative tranquillity of Solihull, while Liverpoolians who can move to Aigburth could save £84.

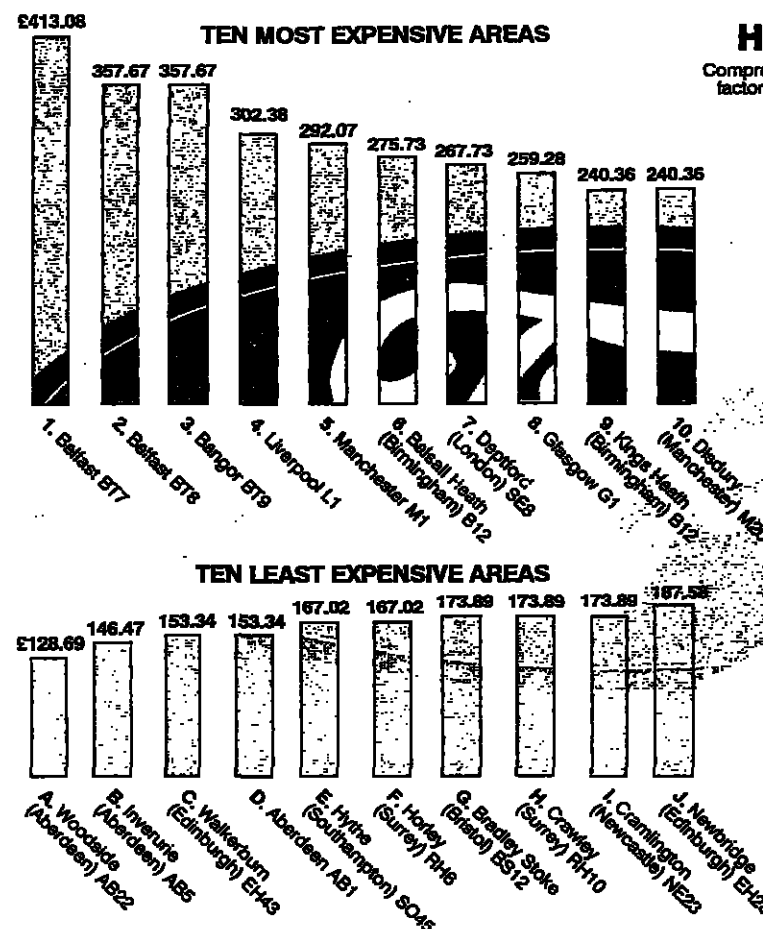
They have identified places that will cost them money

Six months ago, the gap between the top and bottom was £253, in September, it widened to £284. Mark Wood, managing director of AA Insurance, says: "Rates are polarising. High premiums are increasing, but, as our survey shows, insurance costs are falling in the most competitive areas of the market."

The AA checked on premium prices for 44 postcode areas around Britain and Northern Ireland to calculate the average cost for a typical couple: the driver would be a 37-year-old factory worker, who has held a licence since he was 18, which is clean, and has full no claims. His wife, aged 35, is named on the policy for the Escort 1.6LX, which is four years old and worth about £4,750. They cover 10,000 miles annually and have a free extension of cover for foreign holidays.

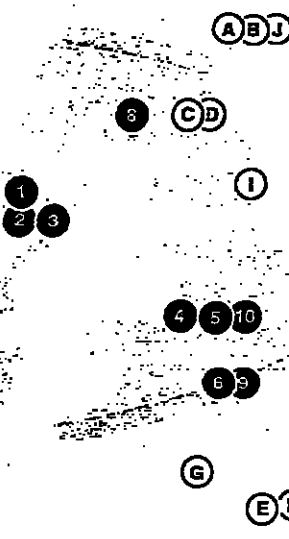
Inevitably, Belfast and Bangor in Northern Ireland fill the top three slots for highest car insurance costs. Insuring the sample Escort would cost the AA's typical couple £413 for a fully comprehensive policy. But Liverpool tops the league of mainland cities with premium prices up since March by £13 a year. Manchester is not far behind with premiums costing typical couples £292 on average, an increase over March's costs of just £3.

The AA discovered that only 11 of the areas reviewed had suffered increased prices.



HOW MUCH TO INSURE

Comprehensive rates for a 1992 Ford Escort 1.6LX driven by a factory worker aged 37, and his wife, with full claims bonus



Source: AA Insurance

Young, confident professionals take sales back to the booming Eighties

High-class cars are on a Roll

The days of wine and roses look as though they are on their way back, writes Kevin Eason. Sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, some of the most expensive models on the market, are surging, giving an indication that good times are starting to roll, even if Britain is not yet booming.

Rolls-Royce says British sales are up 34 per cent in the first nine months of this year, not in itself an indicator of change for the better in the economy, but the figures show that someone, somewhere in the country is enjoying a return to the hedonistic days of the champagne-swilling 1980s.

At the bottom of the market, depression still reigns: retail sales to ordinary customers last month dipped 6.2 per cent, a sign that registrations are still being bolstered by company car fleets. At the top, Rolls-Royce sales have jumped to 555 cars, even though it retails models priced between £100,000 and £220,000.

Yet it is not the traditional "fat cats" of industry who are opening their cheque books. Rolls-Royce says that buyers are a new breed of young entrepreneurs and professionals, with some prepared to pay extra to have their cars tai-



Rolls-Royce: buyers are prepared to pay extra for bespoke wood and leather interiors

lored to the colour scheme of their choice, with bespoke wood and leather interiors costing £3,000 and more.

A company spokesman says: "People immediately think of fat cats, but actually our customers are very different. We

tend to get orders today from the heads of small companies, such as Bloggs Engineering or Bloggs Computing."

Professionals and entrepreneurs whose confidence in the future is growing appear to be driving the resurgence of sales for cars, which cost as much as most people's houses.

That confidence at the top of the market is spreading through the industry too, underlined by the plethora of glamorous models arriving in the showrooms. During the recession, carmakers concentrated on functional vehicles at rock-bottom prices. While the pressure remains on prices, the floodgates have opened on launches of sports cars, coupés, people-movers and even GTIs, which have started to arrive in large numbers.

cars, which retail at between £55,000 and £100,000, are up nearly 11 per cent, at more than 1,000, on the same time last year.

A Porsche spokesman says: "There are a lot of professional people, such as doctors and lawyers, buying, and it is not just cash. Lots of people are trading in and looking for finance."

That confidence at the top of the market is spreading through the industry too, underlined by the plethora of glamorous models arriving in the showrooms. During the recession, carmakers concentrated on functional vehicles at rock-bottom prices. While the pressure remains on prices, the floodgates have opened on launches of sports cars, coupés, people-movers and even GTIs, which have started to arrive in large numbers.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON

A101 Rotherhithe Tunnel. Closed completely on Sunday and Monday from midnight until 5am. A205 Dulwich. Restrictions for resurfacing work on Thurlow Park Road with various restrictions in place, allow for delays in both directions.

A400 Kentish Town. Resurfacing on Fortress Road means southbound traffic is being diverted from the Archway roundabout and northbound from Camden Road. A406 East Finchley. Traffic down to a single lane on North Circular Road at various locations between the A1 and Colney Hatch Lane.

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MAJOR ROADWORKS

major roadworks continue, with no night turn into Donnington Lane. A144 Halesworth, Suffolk. Temporary lights on London Road for gas main work will cause delays.

A41 Wolverhampton. Temporary lights on Bilston Road between Eagle Street and Chillingham Street for canal bridge strengthening work.

A400 Kentish Town. Resurfacing on Fortress Road means southbound traffic is being diverted from the Archway roundabout and northbound from Camden Road.

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AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

MODERN SCALING RACERS ARE DESIGNED WITH THE SAME COMPUTER SOFTWARE THAT THE McLAREN TEAM USES FOR ITS F1 CARS.

THE FAN IN FORD'S COLOGNE WIND TUNNEL CAN DO ZERO TO 185 mph IN UNDER 20 SECONDS.

APRILIA-NARVA, THE 1912 PASSENGER WAS SO SMALL THE PASSENGER HAD TO SIT BEHIND THE DRIVER TO GIVE HIM SUFFICIENT STEERING ROOM.

More than 20 years after it shattered the 500mph barrier, the 1912 Aprilia-Narva was still going strong.

THE 1912 APRILIA-NARVA WAS SO SMALL THE PASSENGER HAD TO SIT BEHIND THE DRIVER TO GIVE HIM SUFFICIENT STEERING ROOM.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ford's milestone

FORD this week celebrated making its 250 millionth vehicle. At Dagenham in Essex, where the company makes the Fiesta, Geoff Hurst, England's 1966 World Cup hero, and boxer Frank Bruno watched the plant's 10 millionth car come off the line — a Fiesta 1.4 Ghia X, which will go into the company's heritage museum.

Veteran auction

AN AUCTION should guarantee even more productive years for a trio of veterans with a combined age of 274 years. Brooks is selling on October 15 at Olympia: a 1904 De Dion Bouton Model Y 6hp rear entrance tonneau, a Bayard 9hp two-seater from that year, and a 1906 Darracq 8/10hp two-seater. The cars are among the oldest to come up for sale recently.

Racing selection

WHAT does a racing driver drive? Well, Jean Alesi, Benetton's top man, was spotted recently at P and A Wood, the classic Rolls-Royce specialists, browsing through a collection of Fifties and Sixties limousines.

Chairman's choice

HALF Britain's company chairmen drive a Jaguar, according to a survey by W.F. Caroon, the motor industry consultants. Four in ten MDs also choose the British marque, which has been under assault from Mercedes-Benz and BMW. Given that nine in ten Jaguar sales are to company fleets in this country, that is good news for a company voted Britain's top manufacturer this week in the Manufacturing Industry Achievement Awards.

Tomorrow has no wheels on it

Helen Mound
races fast
forward 100
years to see
the 300mph car
of the future

THIS IS "Concept 2096", the car experts claim will be on Britain's roads 100 years from now. It will travel at up to 300mph from the car in front without a driver at the controls or a single safety feature, on roads that don't have traffic lights or road signs.

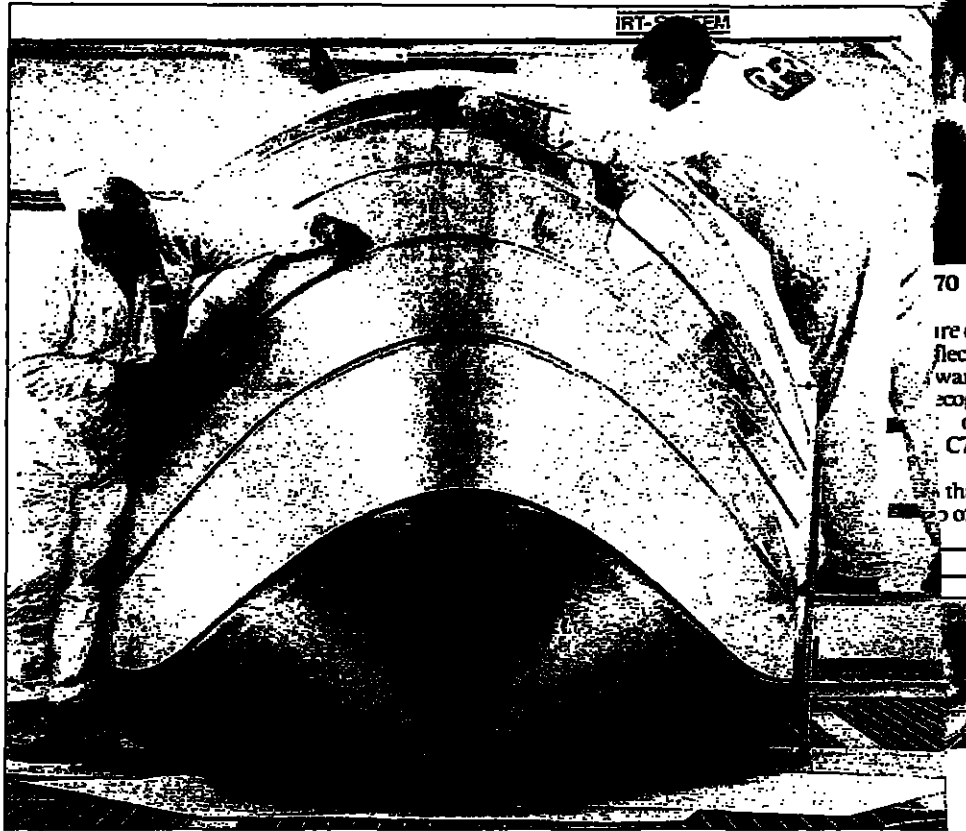
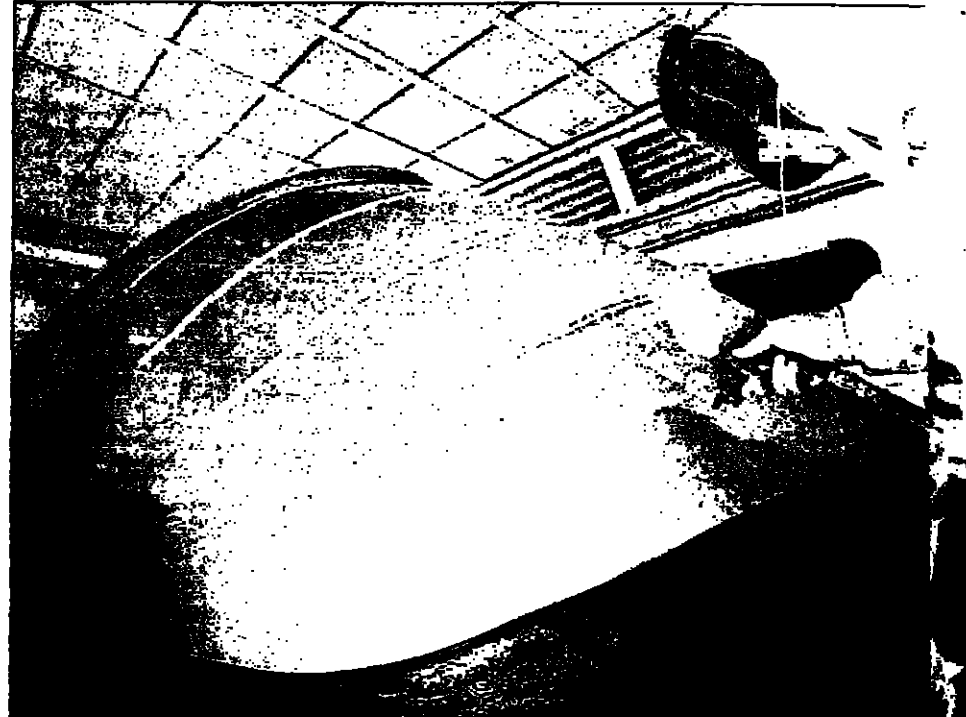
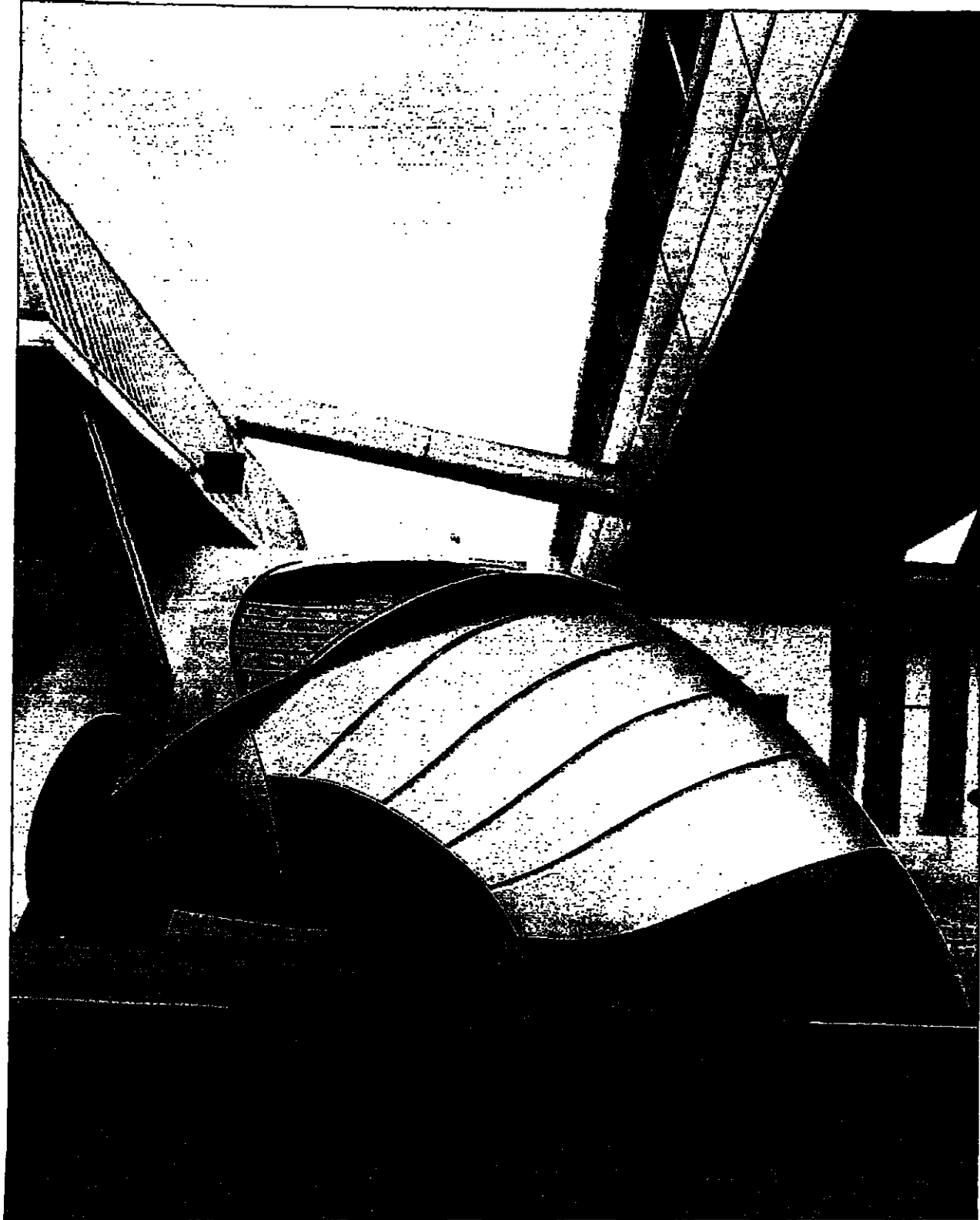
Concept 2096 was commissioned by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to celebrate 100 years of the British motor industry and designed and produced by the final year automotive design students at Coventry University. The futuristic car will be unveiled at the British International Motor Show next week, alongside the 1896 Daimler, the first car produced in Britain.

Roger King, Director of Public Affairs at the SMMT, says: "Concept 2096 will be indicative of the dramatic changes we expect to occur in the next century."

A DETAILED study for the year 2096 gave the design brief for the car. Research covered issues such as work patterns, transport systems, the environment and advancing technology. Results included a transport system that offered single trip, daily, weekly and monthly rented vehicles; more affordable cars; driverless taxis and commercial traffic controlled by computers, which means traffic lights, speed limits and road signs were no longer needed while railway routes became part of the road system.

Concept 2096 is powered by an electric motor rechargeable on the move via "roadside senders" — systems, possibly using microwaves, firing bursts of energy at the vehicle as it sped past, rather than relying on the permanent contact with a third rail or overhead wires which trains use now.

The car has no wheels; speed, suspension, steering and braking all rely on a curious malleable material (yet to be invented) called "slug drive". The motor would set



No steering wheel, no brakes, no lights, no crumple zones... in Concept 2096, controlled and powered by computers, passengers will just punch in their destination, then sit back and watch the video

up wave patterns through the material, moving the vehicle in the same way as a slug, snail or snake. Variations in the pattern adjust speed and direction. The slug drive's resistance on the road could be altered by a computer if it detected slippery conditions or rough surfaces.

Controls are managed by a driverless navigation computer so there is no steering wheel — and no need for a licence or to be able to drive conventional vehicles: motorists of the future just get in, press the buttons and point the slug where it needs to go, choosing destination and preferred

routes: scenic, most economical, fastest.

The computer also has a voice-recognition system, which means only authorised users can instruct the car where to go — which means the end of theft.

Concept 2096 would run on a road management system

designed to control the speed, stopping distances and direction of all vehicles on the road, making safety features such as bumpers, crumple zones, even lights, redundant.

Experts claim that motorways could increase their efficiency by as much as 50 per cent, with the computer navigation system because it would allow vehicles to travel close together — even touching — at high speeds, enabling more cars on to the roads.

The interior of the concept car is described as an extension of the home with facilities for television, video games and video-conferencing. Because

there is no steering wheel or engine, the entire car is dedicated to passenger comfort.

It can also change shape to ensure it travels using the most efficient aerodynamics and its exterior paint is a unique formula developed by PPG, the world's largest automotive paint maker, which

can change colour to suit its environment.

As if that isn't space-age enough, the glass area has a coating which can remain opaque so passengers can see out, or become coloured, reflecting in a curious-looking "slug" which bears little resemblance to cars today.

Alan Copps on the prototype £10,000 sports car that could be on the road next year

Concept in touch with reality

THIS lightweight sports car might look like one of those concepts specially made for motor shows, then consigned to some dusty back room.

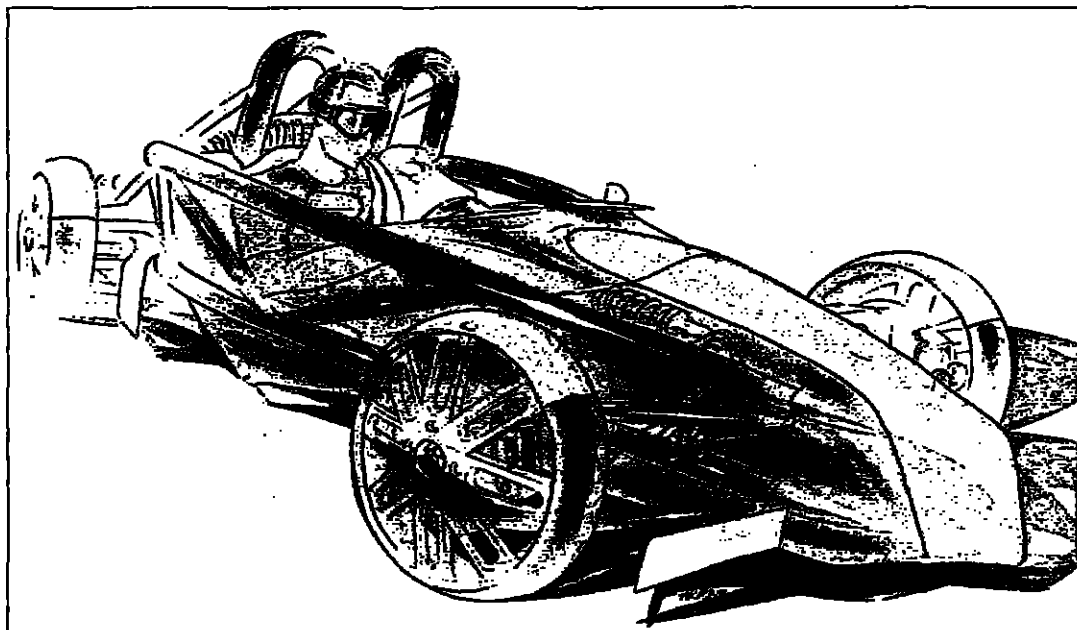
But the prototype of this rear-engined two-seater is destined to be on the road early next year: a sub-£10,000 sports car, weighing about 500kgs and designed for a production run of about 500 a year. It will be powered by Ford's economical and powerful Zetec-SE engine range and in 1.25-litre form will probably get to 60mph in about seven seconds and reach a maximum of 110mph.

"We're not looking for a high top speed but for spectacular acceleration that will make the car fun to drive yet cheap to run," says Samantha Porter, senior lecturer at Coventry University, where a team mainly of students has put the car together for the Motor Show.

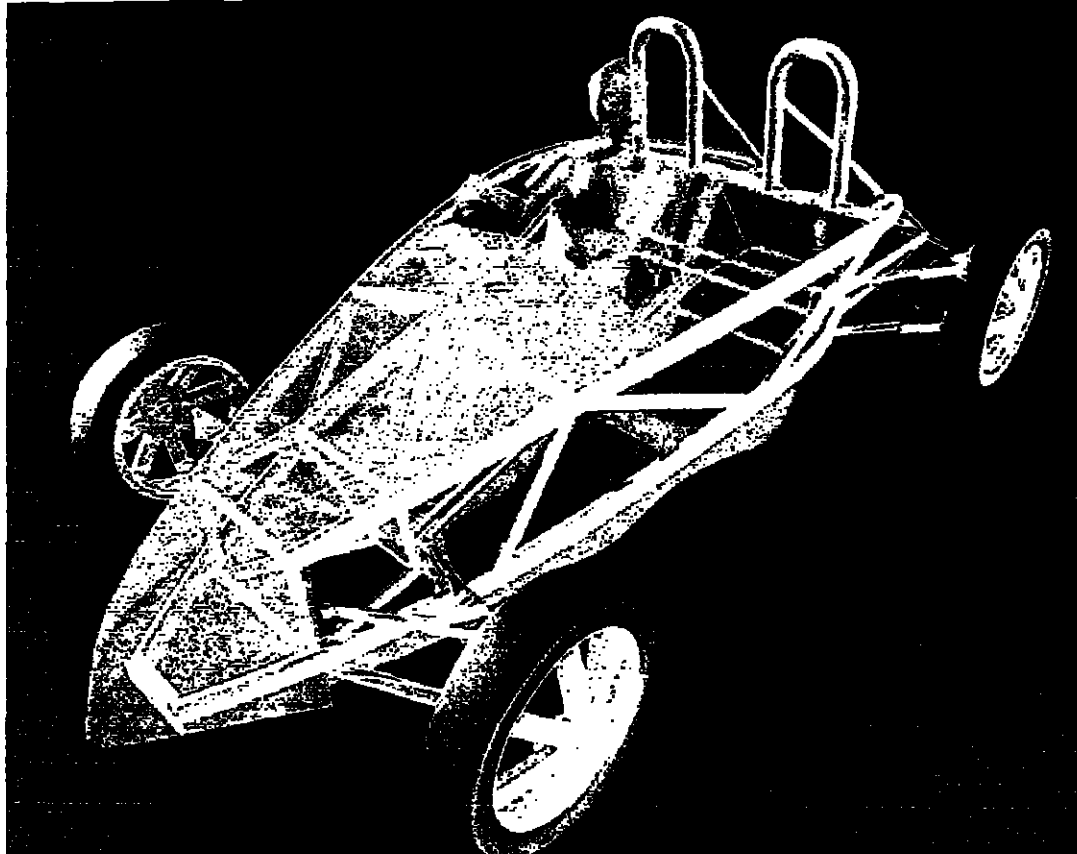
The basic construction is similar to a Formula Ford single seat racing car with a high-strength tubular steel frame, inboard suspension and a quick-ratio steering rack. The bodywork is made from a composite material and the interior, unlike many basic sports cars, should be waterproof.

"We wanted the project to be much more than another static concept. Many people have unsuccessfully tried to redefine the original Lotus 7 or the four-wheeled motorbike concept. We think we've done that and more," says Simon Saunders, senior lecturer in transport design.

The car was built with £40,000 funding and co-operation from Ford, Michelin, British Steel and a host of automotive component makers with much of the design using virtual reality. "It demonstrates that industry and higher education can work together to produce designers of tomorrow," says Saunders.



Powered by Ford's Zetec-SE engine range, the car will probably get to 60mph in about seven seconds



Construction is similar to a Formula Ford single seat racing car with a high-strength tubular steel frame

Contenders line up in the race to be Britain's Car of the Year

To the victors, the spoils; to the losers, the lemon

AWARDS 1

KNIVES will be sharpening over some swanky dinners next week as the motor industry awards season gets under way. For the manufacturers, awards mean glory or ignominy, and there are more cars than ever under the microscope of the numerous judges this year.

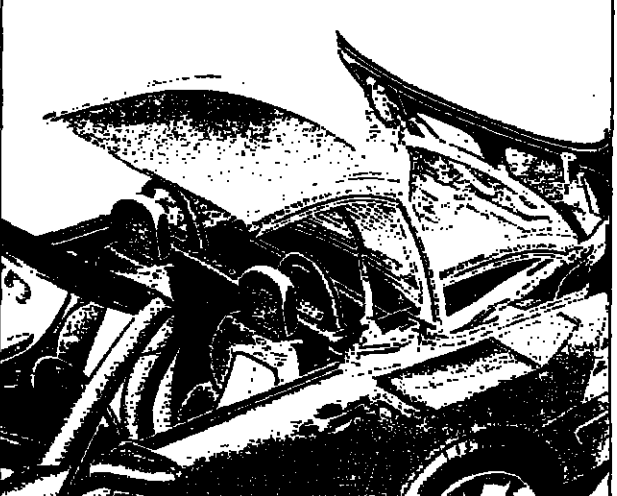
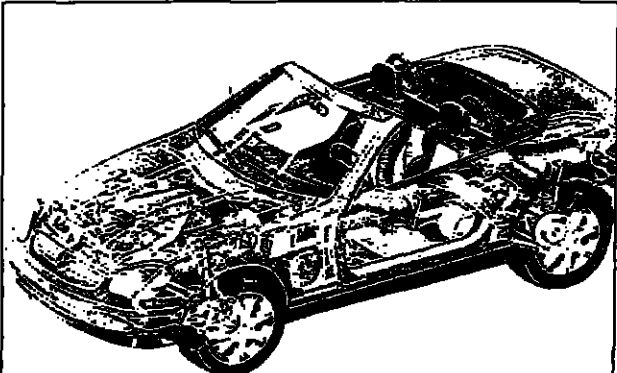
Jaguar, Mercedes, Rover, Ford, Porsche, Toyota, Citroën, Peugeot, Volvo and Lotus are only a few of the companies that have launched important new models this year and which are desperate to capture the attention of buyers.

The monthly magazine, *Car*, is first off the blocks on Monday, followed on Tuesday night by *Autocar*, the weekly, which is throwing a champagne bash in Birmingham after press day at the British International Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre.

Peter Horbury, the Brit who runs Volvo's design studios, and Geoff Upex, responsible for Rover's lovely little 200 series, are in the frame for best designer awards along with Bruno Sacco, who designed the glamorous Mercedes SLK sports car, a model likely to figure highly in the competition for best technical innovation and which starts appearing in Britain early next year.

But which will be voted Best Car? Two new British models must surely be in the frame: Jaguar's XK8 for its all-round brilliance, and the Lotus Elise, the most spectacularly innovative car of the year.

But all eyes over the dinner plates will be for the award nobody wants: Lemon of the Year. Hints are that the Honda Legend or Toyota Paseo could get a mention.



Mercedes SLK: its innovative hood mechanism has put it among the contenders for Best Car of the Year award

AWARDS 2

PEUGEOT has already chalked up an important victory in the annual awards round, winning the prize from The Caravan Club for the Towcar of the Year with its 406 GLX TD diesel. Judges studied 39 cars and decided the best petrol-driven model was the Citroën Xantia Turbo V5X Estate. Chrysler won the budget class for cars up to £12,500, with the newly-introduced Neon LE, with the category for models between £12,501 to £16,500 taken by Vauxhall's Astra 2.0 Sport. BMW's 528i was best luxury car and the Ford Maverick GLX five-door best all-terrain vehicle.

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Volvo is still the saintly one

"Volvo's always been very good at supplying the car you need. Now we will be producing the cars you want," he says. "The desirability factor is what we have concen-



Knights Templar - **1980** with his personalised P1800 and Hollywood's Val Kilmer with his 150mph turbocharged C70

performance, while much of its technology comes from the successful 850R.

Appropriately for a car with a touch of showbiz in its pedigree, the C70 will also feature one of the most sophisticated audio systems available, with ten speakers positioned around the cabin.

"People are much more aware of design now and the C70 reflects that," says Horbury. "We want Volvo to be as instantly recognisable as Carrier, Rolex or Armani - I don't think the C70 will disappoint."

Volvo is obviously hoping that some of the halo effect will rub off.

The Wind In The Willows goes on general release on October 18.



Both open two-seaters were built on underpinnings of production saloons, the Alpine on the Sunbeam-Talbot 90, the BMW on the Compact 318i. The Sunbeam Alpine was aimed at North America. The BMW Z3 is made there. It is quick, lively, and handles well. The engine a smooth-revving four-cylinder mounted in front, drives the rear wheels as a sports car's should.



Yet a sports car needs sensation, balance and excitement that somehow has been refined out of the Z3. It has cornering capacity to spare, but lacks a tactile element to make it a great sports car.

It arrives in Britain in the spring at under £20,000, but with Porsche unveiling the Boxster and Mercedes the SLK at the motor show, BMW is already planning a six-cylinder Z3.

Jordan would have paid Hill £3.4 million for the first of a two-year contract. A sum that was topped, undoubtedly, by Walkinshaw's reputed £4.5m for a one-year deal. TWR Arrows have been right at the back of the field this year, just ahead of Minardi. They have in fact gone downhill, apparently because all funds have been allocated to

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With one race to go David Rokov from Bracknell, Berkshire, heads our leaderboard in the race for our £10,000 jackpot. **Lieke van Riel** is

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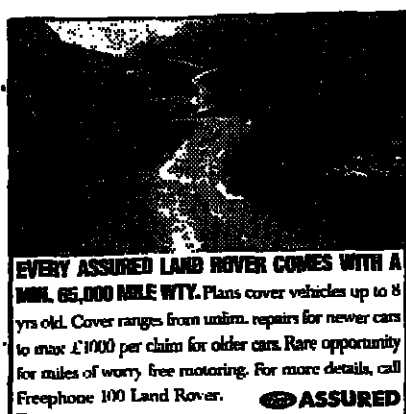
Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions *after* the Portuguese Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday October 18.

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CAR 96

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£22,250.00.
01327-811-499.

230TE
Auto, 90K, 800, air con, 7 seats etc.
£13,500.
Tel: 0181 998 0021

300SL
convertible, 14,800 miles only, 1988, immaculate, FSH, £28,500.
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300 E Auto
1992, 1.1 owner, FMSH, absolutely mint, A/C, black/leather. High mileage, good price.
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1991, Black on Black, AMG styling/temperament, 18000 miles, ABS, 17" alloy wheels, 34,000 miles.
£42,950.
Tel: 0171 3526442 or 0956 837613.

300 SL
92K, 12V, immac cond. 30,000 miles, Steel Grey, alloys, FMSH, £42,000.
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230E
Auto, 1988, smoke Silver, 65K, A/C, ABS, ASD, all elec, FSH. £9,350.
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500SL
91K, Auto, left hand drive, 1 owner, 25.5K, Silver/Silver, Grey/leather, air bags, climate control, windshield, 1 memory seat, air con, cruise, cruise control, FSH, Superb condition.
£39,500.
Tel: 01734 482875.

1985 300SL, 30,000 miles, Tannin Green, leather, chrome, memory seats, alloys, rear seat etc. £69,000.
1981 300SL, 40,000 miles, White, Tan leather, air con, heated electric seats, rear seat, traction control, alloys etc. £28,000.
Mid condition.
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200E AUTOMATIC
June 93, 4 door saloon, all electric, 27,000 miles.
£15,200.
Tel: 01580 764127.

500 SL
1991, H reg in Port (red) with cream leather, FMSH, 12,500 miles only, 8 hole alloy, rear seat, air con, MB alarm, air con, cruise, Private Sale. No Dealers. FV considered.
£48,295.
Tel: 01733 577735 office or 01733 270714 home.

500SL
96 model, Azurite Blue, HS, Alarm, 17in AMG wheels, multi CD, 8K VGC, £73,500.00.
Tel: 01934 750051

E 280
Bright silver, leather, air conditioning, walnut, 8 hole alloy, 18,500 miles, FMSH, £27,500.
Tel: 01738 447286 (H) or 01708 341114 (W).

300 SL
1990 Personal plate, silver over grey, a/c, auto, cruise, excellent condition.
£33,000.
Tel: 01703 844400.

SL 500
96 Model, new spec, Azurite blue with grey leather. Full equipment, 15,000 miles, £72,500.
Telephone: 01732 353940 or 0171 231 3252.

E 200 Est
1993 (1) White, auto, air con, rear seat, CD, 2 owners, FSH, 75K miles, Mercedes owned and run, Mercedes warranty, Perfect condition, £17,995 only.
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Estate, White, Midlight Blue int, G Reg, 81,000 miles, excellent condition, FSH, 7 seats, alarm, Only 2 owners, £11,000.
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24V, 1993, LHD, 1 owner, 9K, high spec, Black/Black metallic, Grey lthr, immac condition, £42,500.
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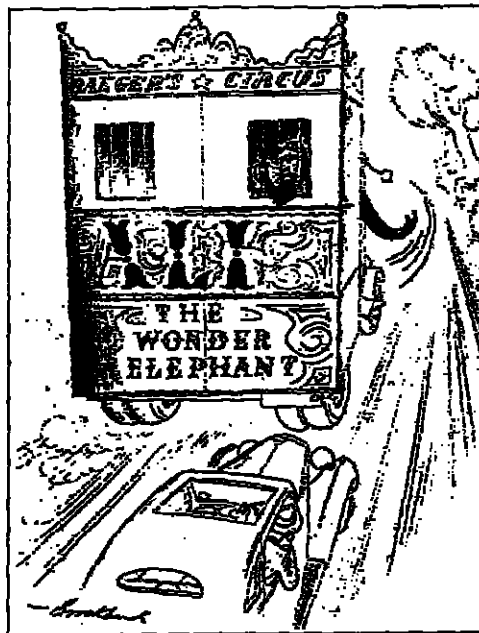
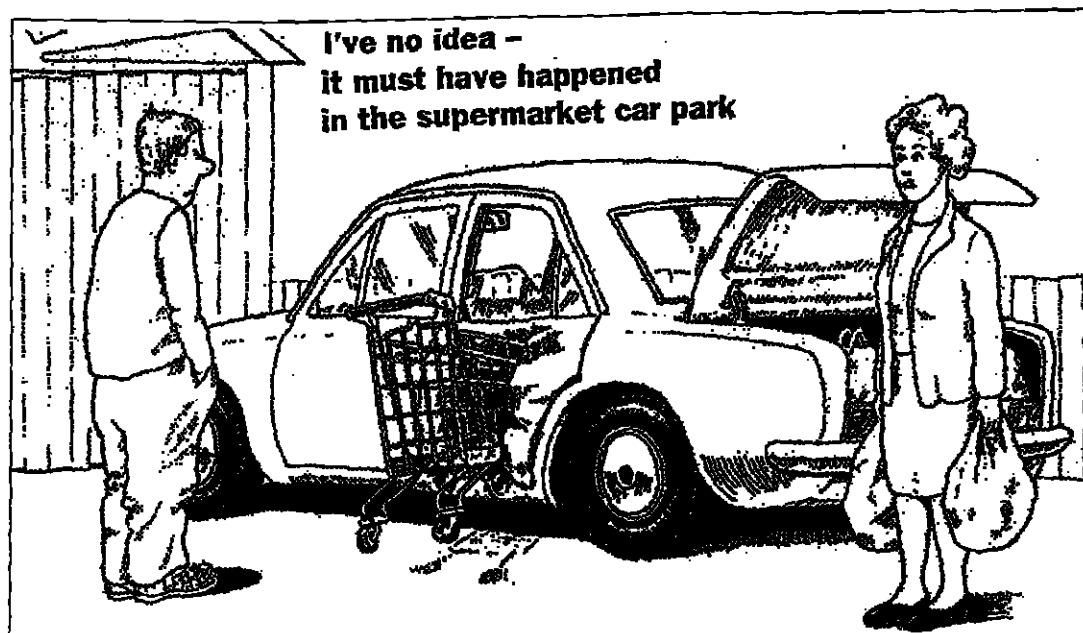
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Ben Her finds a funny way to raise funds for the industry's charity



There's not much to make you laugh at the British International Motorshow. Announcing new cars, new factories, increased output and more jobs is a serious business, but there is one launch taking place that is designed to raise a giggle — and money for a good cause, writes Helen Mould.

Driven to Laughter is a book of motoring cartoons that goes on sale this week at the show in aid of the motoring industry's benevolent fund, BEN.

Initiated by a group of motoring industry executive's wives — who go by the name of "Ben Her" — the little book is full of gags scribbled for motoring magazines throughout the last century by artists and cartoonists such as Michael Turner and John Ditchfield.

BEN was founded in 1905 specialising in help and care for anyone who had worked in the motor, bicycle or motorcycle industries. It is considered one of the most highly regarded charities in the world, frequently praised for its efficiency and size. Unlike other good causes that have dozens of charities offering to help, the motor industry is catered for solely by BEN.

Set up three years ago by the wives and partners of some of the motoring industry's top brass, Ben Her holds fund-raising events throughout the year. These women are dedicated to their cause, proud-

ly admitting to shamelessly exploiting what standing they have in the industry in the interests of charity. In their first three years those exploits have raised an impressive £150,000.

Today BEN supports more than 6,000 families, all of whom have worked in various parts of the motor or allied industries (oil, petrol, components and vehicles, financial services and retail garages, distributors and motoring journalists).

Funds are raised through company and private support: BEN runs a payroll scheme among thousands of factory floor workers and the sale of virtually every car in Britain contributes 30p to the charity; many retailers add the same amount again.

This year BEN has spent £7million caring for people living in the community or in one of its four nursing homes. But the cost is growing. In 1985 it handled 103 new cases, last year more than 1,000 were considered.

As well as organising its bi-annual bash, at which anyone who's anyone in the motoring industry lets their hair down, and its annual luncheon when several hundred women gather for a rather boozy lunch, Ben Her is constantly seeking innovative ideas to help raise funds — such as the "collection of the world's greatest motoring cartoons".

Sheila Cooper, director of BEN's

Welfare Services, is responsible for taking the difficult decisions about who receives help from the funds. She supplies anything from wheelchairs and dogs out for sick children, to life-saving operations and new homes.

Every day she faces some of the saddest possible stories of personal crisis; you'll rarely meet a woman who is more capable of making you weep — usually just before she asks you for support or to make a contribution.

Like the well-connected ladies from Ben Her, Sheila firmly believes in exploiting her talents for a good cause.

"I'm constantly faced with heartache in this job, so I'm not afraid to pull a few heartstrings in return if it gets me what I need for the charity," she argues.

In her speech at this year's annual Ben Her luncheon, Sheila gave a candid demonstration of her work by reading a heart-wrenching letter written to her from a bereaved mother whom she had been helping.

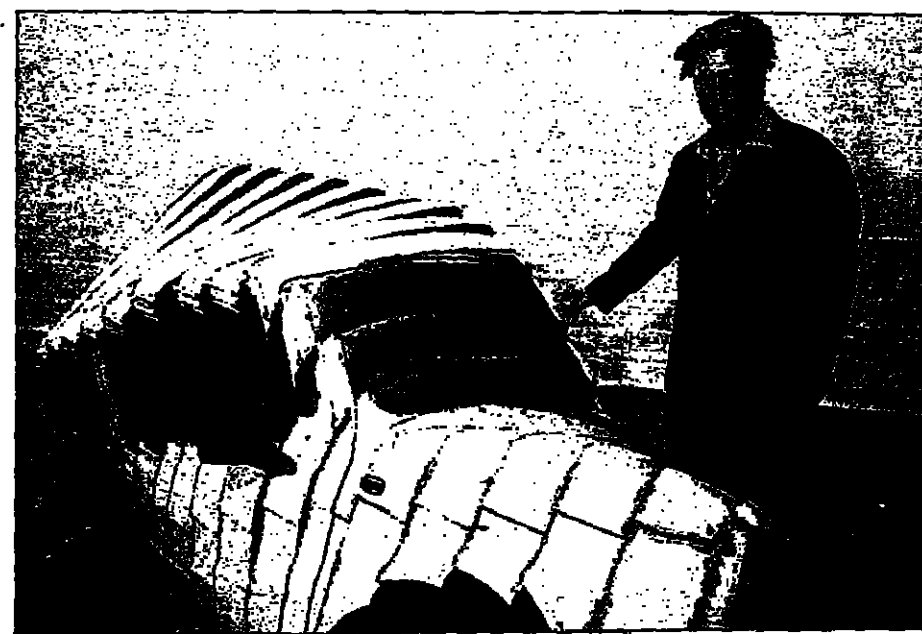
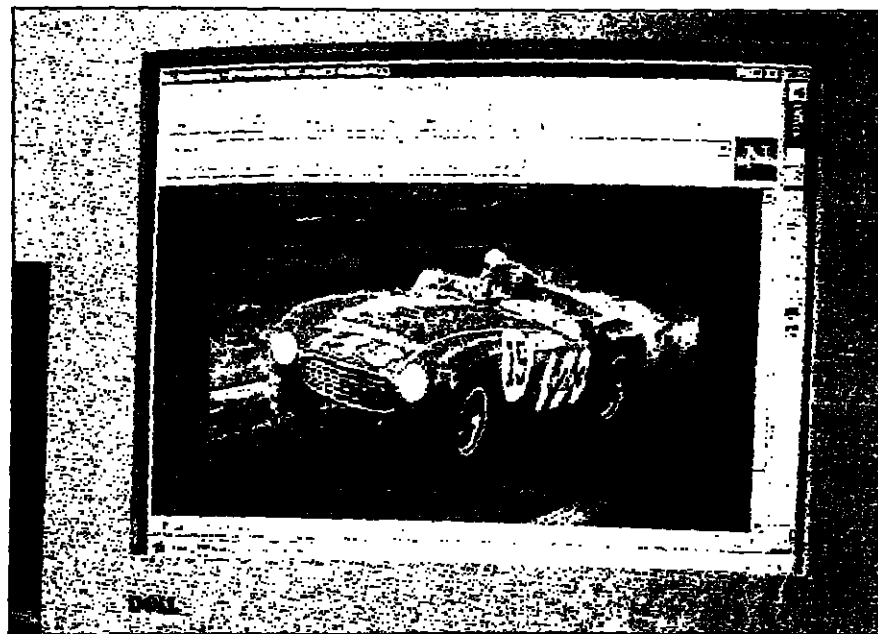
The result was exactly what she had been hoping for — emptied purses and enthusiasm to help from all the guests.

Driven to Laughter goes on sale on October 15, published by Haymarket Motoring Publications, price £4.95. BEN, Motor & Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, 01344 20191.



Ladies who lunch: made up of wives and partners of top executives, Ben Her has raised £150,000 since it was founded three years ago

Browse through the gallery that has artistic driving licence



Jeremy Featherstone and web site display. left: "We already have buyers who, before taking delivery of a new work, had seen their purchases only on a computer screen"

Paintings, prints and sculptures of the car as art now have a home... and you can visit it on the Internet. David Long reports

In New York a Jaguar E-Type has been put on display at the Museum of Modern Art. The Louvre did the same thing a while back with a Range Rover. BMW sealed a David Hockney 8 Series coupé into a Damien Hirst-style fish (or should that be cow?) tank and stuck it outside London's Royal Academy. And in Italy a few years ago the hillside outside Florence saw a dozen classic Ferraris similarly displayed.

Yet stylist Peter Stevens, whose work includes the McLaren F1, Jaguar XJR-15 and Lotus Elan, insists his designs are not Art. Rather, he told *Autocar* readers, they are merely "an elegant solution to an engineering problem".

So much for the Car-As-Art debate, but what about the car in art? The car designer may not be a Degas, but increasingly people want not merely to drive his designs but to draw, etch, sketch, paint, model and sculpt them.

At one end of the scale, Britain's classic car magazines carry advertisements for artists who will paint a portrait of your Porsche from a photograph. At the other, the big auction houses are selling more automotive art, albeit under the banner of "automobilia" rather than of traditional fine art. Now, somewhere between, the capital has its first purely automotive art gallery.

By opting for the outer reaches of West London instead of the traditional art-hoard of Cork Street in the West End, the founders of Gibson Moore Fine Art have secured a huge space in which to display a wide range of works. Based in Chiswick, Jeremy Featherstone and John McLagan have more than 2,500 square feet devoted to things automotive.

These range from limited-edition prints and lithographs to original drawings and sketches, figurative sculpture and a number of large expressionist paintings.

As well as sponsoring the Federation of Automotive Artists' display at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, Gibson Moore (the name is derived from the two partners' middle names) represents several well-known artists including Dexter Brown, Jim Bamber, Barry Rowe and Peter Miller. Prices range from under £300 for a pastel of Tazio Nuvolari's Auto Union to more than £5,500 for Dexter Brown's painting of a Ferrari 512 racing at Le Mans in 1972. Deliveries, appro-

priately, are made using a Volvo T3 estate rather than a more conventional panel van.

The gallery's new home at Nevin House, named in memory of another much respected painter, Frederick "Paddy" Nevin, who died last year) means it is less than a mile off the M4. In addition, it is on the Internet, having recently gone on-line with its own web site in a bid to bring the collection to an even wider audience.

"Obviously, people who are able to visit us in person will get a much better idea of precisely what we have on show," says Jeremy. "However, as we sell paintings and sculpture all round the world, our new web site is an important feature for many of our clients. Gallery sites like these are becoming standard practice throughout the art world and we already have several buyers on our books who, before taking delivery of a new work, had seen their purchases only on a computer screen."

This electronic network means existing clients can view paintings and sculptures from their own homes and offices or retrieve information on the collection, forthcoming shows and individual artists.

"We hope new clients will be able to find us too," says Jeremy. "They will come across our collection as they browse through the Internet. Obviously some of them will be surfing through the art pages, but the way our web site is set up means that anyone selecting key words will be able to access any of our stock which is relevant to that particular word. Somebody looking up 'Brooklands' or 'Ferrari', for example, will find the appropriate pictures in the collection."

A number of artists, including Sibella Makower and Tony Iachicchio, have studios in the same building, but Gibson Moore's net connection means the partners can also source specific items or artist's work from around the world.

"Obviously we are close to the artists we have here," says Jeremy. "But communication via the Internet means we can also arrange commissions by the many artists whose work is held in the gallery."

Gibson Moore Fine Art is at Nevin House, Reynolds Rd, London W4 5AR. Tel: 0181-987 0353. The web site can be found at <http://www.gibson-moore.com>

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74	WTOG	84	WVBT	94	WYFF
75	WTOG	85	WVBT	95	WYFF
76	WTOG	86	WVBT	96	WYFF
77	WTOG	87	WVBT	97	WYFF
78	WTOG	88	WVBT	98	WYFF
79	WTOG	89	WVBT	99	WYFF
80	WTOG	90	WVBT	100	WYFF
81	WTOG	91	WVBT	101	WYFF
82	WTOG	92	WVBT	102	WYFF

P22 TVR
P77 TVR
 £1,250 Each
 On retention
 01908 271722
 01908 678233

M4 CUS
 Please contact
 Mr Marcus
 On 0973 286860
 or 0121 608 3967
 £3,500 ono.

KJL23
 £4,000 ono
 01762 339711

DJB 444
 £1,500.
 Tel: 01446
 773253.

B1 AMT
 £4,000
 0973 2277197

RJM 1M
 £5,500
 T/F:
 01708 724131
 R.J.MILEHAM.

15 TC
 Offers over £7,500
SU 7800
 Offers over £1500
 01698 812769

A5 PMB
 and
A6 PMB.
 On retention, transfer paid.
 £1,250.
 Tel: 01302 535948

LJI 90
 On BMW 735i on Auto
 9/84 Mot offers over
 £2,500.
 Tel: MBike 01784
 881862.

MB 51
 Private sale offers
 around £11,000.
 Tel: 01803
 868343.

2 MM
 Serious offers in the
 region of £20K
 Invited by fax to:
 0115 948 3393

N111 XON
 On retention
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 Tel: 0860 352341.
 Or 0973 511838.

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Catching up with the Joneses

Alan Copps on Nissan's £9m bid to make the Primera a success



Peugeot 406: heroic images, remembered more for its music

If you've fallen out of love with Renault's Nicole, are fed up with babies squawking about Vauxhall Astras, have seen enough Volvo whirlywinds to last a lifetime and already found Peugeot's hero inside yourself, it's time to meet Mr and Mrs Jones.

This good-looking, upwardly mobile couple, who sleep in satin sheets and live in a high-tech house of glass, are about to become as familiar as any characters from the wacky world of television car advertising, as is their backing track, *Lifted*, by the Lighthouse Family.

That last item is a clue to the car they will be advertising. Apart from being one of the most widely researched ads in recent times their commercial is the core of a £9 million campaign that unites two of the North-East's most celebrated exports, the Lighthouse Family and the Nissan Primera.

What this ad will be trying to pull off is one of the more sophisticated tricks in the world of marketing and branding which means so much when a new car is launched. If the new Primera is to succeed where its predecessor is admitted to have failed, then Brian Carolin, Nissan's marketing director, has to sell his car to an audience that consists mainly of salesmen.

The Primera is a good car (even my colleague, Kevin Eason, admits that, with reservations, on page 7). But it sells in a segment where the dominant players are the Ford Mondeo, Vauxhall Vectra and Peugeot 406 and where more than 80 per cent of all cars sold are to company drivers. Of those, the vast majority are "user choosers" people who may drive vast mileages on business and are allowed to choose any car within a set price range.

The old Primera was number nine on their list, not a success in anyone's terms. There was a reason for that: the old Primera appeared in late 1990. Until shortly before Nissan had been one of the great success stories of

the Thatcher decade, a glowing example of foreign investment funding British export success. Its Sunderland factory a pioneer face of Britain's new industrial approach. But, just as the Primera appeared, it ran into a serious legal wrangle with its erstwhile distributor, Octav Botnar (one which he only managed to square with the Inland Revenue this week). Thus the Primera crept out rather than being launched, £3 million was spent over its first 18 months. It was a good car, but no one knew it was there.

With the new car, Carolin knows he's in the big league and the launch campaign will be spent within eight weeks. Viewers will find Mr and Mrs Jones difficult to escape. They have been chosen not just for their good looks but because, according to research, they match the aspirations of potential buyers and avoid the excessive imagery in rival publicity campaigns.

"The kind of people who might look at a Primera include an awful lot in sales and marketing. We spent six months of customer clinics and focus groups trying to find out how our brand was perceived and what customers wanted to see in an ad," says Carolin. "The research clearly identified a high level of advertising literacy and a backlash against campaigns perceived as having little substance and too much imagery."

What they wanted apparently was something that identified the brand and had humour. Although they wanted to see what the car looked like, detailed information was relatively unimportant, music was seen as vital. This sophisticated audience apparently recognises that you can't say anything much about a technical specification in a minute-long film. Interestingly, this is the conclusion of an overwhelmingly male survey. The most recent survey of women's attitudes came up with a demand for more information.

The story of Mr and Mrs Jones is simple. They wake up and he says: "I think I'll drive to work."



Mr and Mrs Jones: a sophisticated audience wants humour rather than technical information in television advertising for cars

He is glimpsed at the wheel of his Primera speeding through fields and a modern cityscape, then he arrives at his office. It is a room in his home and his wife, now out of bed, is there to greet him with a knowing and very fetching smile over the computer terminal. Cue for the key phrase: It's a driver's car, so drive it.

In some ways, certainly in

understated humour, it's a bit of a steal from the ads for the Renault Laguna, the most-admired according to Nissan's research, in which viewers are convinced that a woman passenger is a mistress, until the driver takes her to a party for his wife. The 406 ad is remembered more for its music than its male-dominated imagery, which many of those car-

vassed described as irrelevant and disturbing. The degree of research that went into the ad, produced by TBWA, the agency which also came up with the "Professionals" for the Nissan Almera, shows just how vital image is in an age when most cars are reliable and evenly matched in performance. It will be deemed to have succeeded if it

lifts Nissan into sixth spot in the segment, selling 127,000 a year. But if that happens it might also have something to do with Nissan's pricing policy. The 1.6 GX Primera, expected to be the best seller will cost £13,450. That's £520 less than a Peugeot 406 1.8 LX, £445 less than a Ford Mondeo 1.6 LX and £375 less than a Vauxhall Vectra 1.6 LS.

ACCELERATED SELLING

No relief in sight from the motor show sales pitch

If you're heading for the NEC Motor Show, beware: your emotions are about to be shamelessly manipulated, writes Simon Hacker. You can't buy a car at the show, but you can be sold on one. If you park and jump on a courtesy shuttle bus, Hyundai will already have ambushed you. In 1990, only 7,000 passers-by happened upon Hyundai's stand. Then they hit on "headrest promotions". In 1994, 30,000 people converged on the Korean badge.

Says exhibition promotions director Richard Farrow: "The front of the headrest cover is branded with a simple logo—but the back contains a pocket. When you're sitting there, with nothing to do for a couple of minutes, the desire to look inside the pocket becomes irresistible."

Open the pocket, and statistics prove that whatever lies inside will make a Lancia more magnetic than a Lexus, or even a Lamborghini.

In case you slip up.



Daihatsu: a new conception in selling

If you judge such promotion a little in-your-face, at least the NEC has 1,200 cubicles at your convenience, where you can escape the razzmatazz. Make the most of an ad-free toilet stop, though: your minutes spent here are to become a prime promotion opportunity.

Convenience advertising is Farrow's new brainchild, too late for this year, but already booked for the next show. "The space on the back of a lavatory door and over each urinal is extremely valuable for getting a message across. Where else can you guarantee 100 per cent attention?"

First in the queue for the loo may be Daihatsu, whose campaign for the Hijet people carrier grabbed headlines with such unforgettables as: "It picks up five times more women than a Lamborghini".

Daihatsu's message gurus, Banks Hoggins O'Shea, have already designed an ad for the Hijet which was affixed to Durex machines in a trial scheme for London pubs and wine bars.

"The wording," a spokesman says, "was to the effect that if things don't go as planned, a capacious family vehicle doesn't have to cost the earth."

THE MAZDA 323



From £12,340*

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RENAULT MEGANE
«SPEECHLESS»

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call
0345 48 48 15

Disagree
call
0345 48 48 16

mazda

* On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence. Model shown features optional alloy wheels at £480.

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And now, back to the studio

The Blairs have managed it but finding the perfect family portrait is a serious business

Families like mine don't have our portraits professionally done. We 1990s relaxed types like our snaps spontaneous. We're quite smug about that. Or we were until last week when the Blairs, of all people, released an official kids' sofa photograph. And they looked relaxed, quite 1990s. Clever Mr Blair and his family focus group.

Gently does it, though. We didn't even have formal pictures taken at our wedding, just friends snapping away all day. So having a family photo taken feels as if we're making a statement. Not having a spin doctor to hand, I asked Colin Harding, a curator at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford, what the statement is.

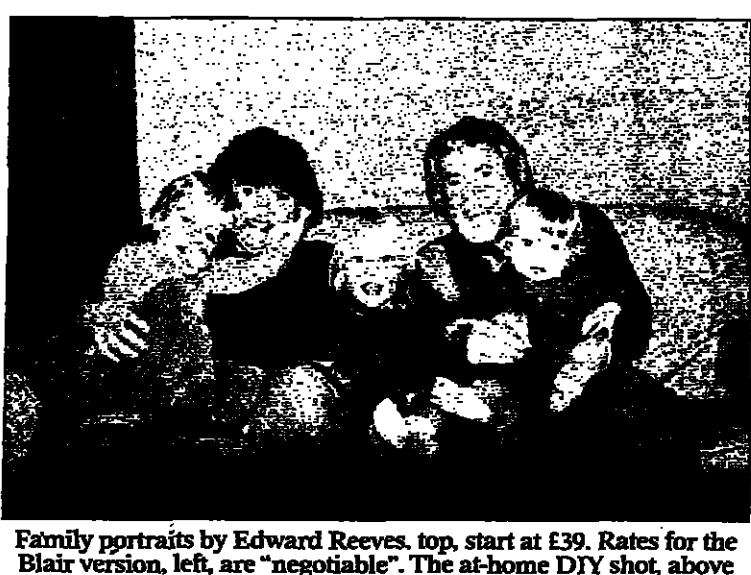
The professionally-taken portrait is all about the importance you place on the family unit. People still go along to the photographic studio in their best clothes. This is the picture that goes on the wall. It's a different statement altogether from the snapshot," he says. Public, rather than intimate. That's probably why it didn't work when we set the timer on our Sigma SA 300 and tried DIY portraiture in the sitting room. We went for T-shirts and jeans — a genuine record of how we are after lunch, minus actual goblets of banana on baby's front and mother's shoulder.

Immediately several things became clear, which is more than can be said for the final pictures. Controlling three small children and a self-timer is almost impossible. Cherie Booth was wise to leave the dead casual clothes to the rest of the family. But inspired by the Blairs, we were determined to see this thing through. They used the London photographer Anthony Crickmay, the top name in ballet photography as well as a portrait taker. His rates are described as "by negotiation" and "a matter of discretion". If you wish to negotiate discreetly with Mr Crickmay's people ring 0171-378 1300 or 0171-381 4440.

The advice of the man himself on the secrets of taking a family portrait is simple: "Not wishing to be smart-alec about it, getting it in focus in the main thing. And the second is: bore them into relaxation." Easy when you know how.

Another top people's choice is the Harrods Portrait Studio (0171-730 1234). It costs £65 for a sitting, including 15-20 proofs, and £75 a head if you want a make-up artist. Prices for the picture range from £89 for a small, unframed desk portrait to £895 for a large, framed wall portrait bonded on canvas.

Being rather downmarket of new Labour, we went to our high street photographer, like generations of families before us. Edward Reeves in Lewes, Sussex, is said to be one of the oldest photographic studios in the country. Behind the shop front a long brick corridor takes you to the Victorian daylight studio via some



Family portraits by Edward Reeves. Top, start at £39. Rates for the Blair version, left, are "negotiable". The at-home DIY shot, above

of the old props used over the past 140 years. In one corner was a neck rest — rather like a pair of kitchen tongs — to keep your head still during the long exposure times of the early days.

"People now are being much more relaxed and casual about it," said Tom Reeves, great grandson of Edward. Relaxed? Actually, only a mixture of glove puppets and chocolate promises was saving two-year-old Jack from the neck rest. Still, it certainly beat dashing about

between sofa and timer. We were smarter than at home, but not that much smarter. "Only about half our customers come in their Sunday best," Mr Reeves said. "The main thing is to wear what you're happy in." We left only £39 the lighter for eight prints. (For £20 more we could have had more poses, people and prints.)

Still making promises about chocolate, we next went round to our friend Colin and asked him to have a go. This made us even more

relaxed — gin — and we felt too giggly for a really useful focus group.

So how did the three methods turn out? In the DIY shot there is a lurid, Frankenstein quality about the light. That's a richus I'm wearing, not a smile. The strange blur at the bottom of the picture is the top of the table where the camera was resting.

In friend Colin's shot with the same camera, the door looks wonderful, the door knob ravish-

ing. Sadly the focus doesn't stretch to the people in the picture. The children seem afflicted by mass infant toothache.

The Tom Reeves studio shot is the best. It's all in focus. Our faces don't look toasted or bleached. We all seem human and we look like a group. Jack and Beth look sweet, even if Rosie looks pensive.

So we've done it. But would you vote for us?

JILL PARKIN

War and peas at the table

Rose Wild wonders why children and clean plates don't go together

Someone has been teaching my children table manners. At three and four it's none too soon and obviously I could have tried harder but never mind. Mealtimes are suddenly poems of Please and Thank you and May I Get Down Now? What isn't coming through is any sign of willingness to eat what they're given.

Does it matter? They're big, cheerful and they don't look undernourished. So why should I mind if nothing passes their lips but pasta, tomato sauce and cheese until they leave home in 20 years' time? Father gave in long ago and saves everyone all sorts of grief by sticking unswervingly to the preferred menu with no extras or sneaky variations. When they were tiny and I was keen I used to read the instruction manuals so I know about not letting meals turn into war zones.

Nannies got into power struggles over last mouthfuls of peas and correct use of forks but I was above all that — up to a point. I still can't relax about the one-dish diet, can't resist trying the occasional sausage, or baked bean, anything for a change. And it's very annoying, if you're not the sort for whom knocking up little something in the kitchen is your weekend occupation of choice, to have your loving efforts greeted with tears and abuse. It's even worse if the children are not yours. I still find it hard to forgive the parents of little blighters who spurned my cooking in the days before I'd gained the mystic wisdom about under-ten's not eating mushrooms.

Which is where I part company with father. For these are social creatures; they have aunts and uncles and cousins and friends whom they visit for meals. And most importantly, they have a grandmother.

They are probably unusual among their contemporaries in that this grand-mother vividly recalls not only the rationing of the Second World War but the stringencies of the First. When she was a child she was told to remember the starving children in Russia and waste remains anathema. My father got excited about jam on door handles, but meals were generally stress-free. Indeed I was so well trained that, as a lunch guest at about my daughter's age, I ate a kidney omelette.

Its memory will live for ever. Never mind John Kennedy being shot. This was one of those freeze frame moments when the skin or your scalp goes tight and conversation fades to a distant buzz. But I ate the thing. Such iron discipline doesn't accord with my mother's memories. If I ask how she achieved it, she will only say that she can remember any of us not wanting to eat our food. This may have become regretfully true later, but I swear I wasn't then. The most helpful she could be was to say that today they see too much food on television.

After poo-pooing the idea and saying we don't buy all that stringy cheese and cereal with sugar on, I realise she might be on to something. We may not buy the cereals they advertise during cartoon intervals but there are at least four brands to which the aspiring muesli parent can respectfully give house room, and there they all are lined up on the shelf to be fought over. In our day it was cornflakes

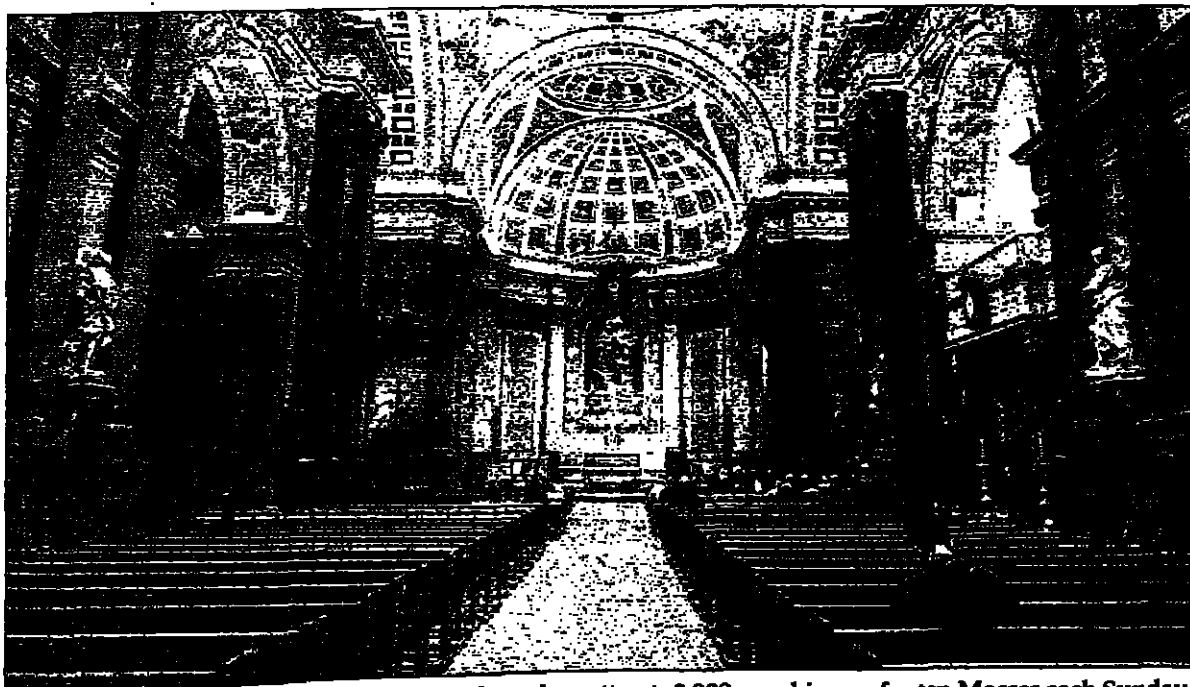
and that was your lot. The only room for initiative was in how much sugar you could shovel on top. In the houses where I grew up the kitchen was a room somewhere off, where mother or whoever stamped around muttering and from which meals emanated, fixed, finite, inflexible, take them or leave them. Now we're all open plan and cook has to manage with tricycles round the knees and when it's all done they know perfectly well, because they've seen them, that there are at least six shapes of pasta in a basket on top of the fridge which would be preferable to the muck you've tried to pass off on them.

We've had it for the moment. My mother's right, the waste is awful. Even if I wanted to brandish starving children at them I can't see it working when their experience of the outside world doesn't stretch beyond the groaning shelves of Sainsbury's. Maybe if we don't persuade them that they have to leave their plates empty they won't acquire our middle-aged spreads.

Which leaves how to be kind to the cook. I suppose it's just a matter of age. I'm working on it and perhaps with the help of our mysterious manners fairy we'll get there soon, while we have a few friends left.

Ruth Gledhill joins a celebration of a modern composer's Requiem in a timeless setting

Brompton's baroque splendour



Brompton Oratory, in the affluent heart of London, attracts 3,000 worshippers for ten Masses each Sunday



REQUIEM AETER-
NAM dona eis, do-
mine, et lux perpetua
luceat eis, sang the
choir above us, the
organ and orchestra
fashioning soft har-
monies in a way that
made it impossible to believe the
dead could be anything other than
eternally at rest, perpetual light
shining upon them. This was a
Requiem Mass, so-called after the
first word of the introit, to honour the
late parishioners and benefactors of
the Brompton Oratory, an extra-
ordinary Roman Catholic church at
the heart of London's most affluent
quartier, attracting 3,000 worship-
pers across ten Masses each Sunday.
This was a rare opportunity to
experience the unforgettable com-
position of Maurice Duruflé, who
died as recently as 1986 but whose

timeless work could almost have
been written in the era of the
medieval Benedictine plainsong on
which it is based. The women, many
seated alone in the wooden pews,
wore black lace mantillas, and the
men were soberly dressed in black or
grey which, combined with the
Italian baroque style of the church,
seemed to take us out of 20th century
London and into an earlier age of
Spain or Italy.

Although this was the modern
Mass, the Oratory fathers in black
and gold chasubles faced the high
altar, with its unbleached candles,
for most of the service. A few
communicants joined in at times,
such as in the confession, mea culpa,
mea culpa, mea maxima culpa, but
most of us just stood, listened and
meditated as the music led us into
and beyond the necessary thoughts
of life and death. The first Oratory

was founded by St Philip Neri in
Rome in the 16th century and there
are now 70 houses and 500 priests
living in these secular, as opposed to
monastic, communities worldwide.
The movement was brought here by
Cardinal John Henry Newman after
he went over to Rome in 1845. He
founded an Oratory in Birmingham.

THE BROMPTON Oratory was
founded by Father William Faber,
the noted hymnwriter, who was
received into the Catholic church a
few weeks after Newman. He chose
Brompton as the site despite reserva-
tions on the part of Newman, who
thought the area "a neighbourhood
of second-rate gentry and second-rate
shops".

The parish today has a deserved
reputation for conservatism, being
devoutly loyal to the Pope, to its
Archbishop, Cardinal Basil Hume of

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★
PARISH PRIEST: Fr Ignatius Harrison

ARCHITECTURE: Neo-baroque, consecrated in 1884 and newly-talented in Italianate blue and gold after a £1 million restoration for the centenary. ★★★★★

MUSIC: A Mass to equal the better-known Fauré requiem, on which it is modelled in parts. ★★★★★

LITURGY: Modern Mass from the Roman Missal but sung in Latin. Sensuous. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Transcendent ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: None at ours. Tea and coffee served after Mass on Sundays. ★★

Westminster, and espousing in particular reverence for the Virgin Mary, an example set by St Philip, who used to say: "My sons, be devoted to the Madonna." Appropriately, for a Requiem, we were seated in the shadow of a full-length painting of Our Lady of Sorrows in the Seven Dolours Chapel, and the shadow deepened with the setting sun outside as the parish priest read out the names of parishioners who had died in the last year. We all remembered many others besides.

A baritone soloist in the *Domine Jesu Christe* and *Libera Me* sustained the mood of suspense and acceptance. Finally, in the *In Paradisum*, borrowed from the burial service, we offered a plea that all our late loved ones be led by the martyrs into paradise.

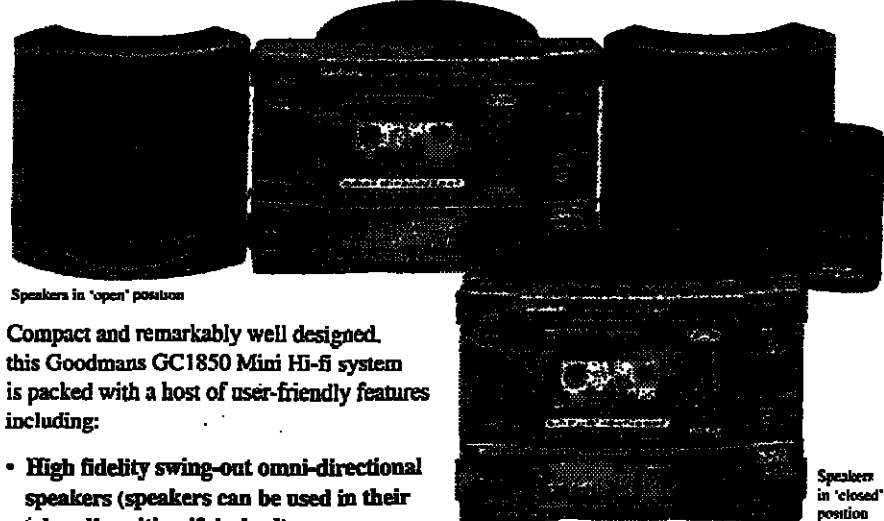
● The Brompton Oratory, London SW7 (0171-589 4811).



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The dog with a nose for French truffles
Page 18

THE TIMES Travel

Doug Sager's guide to America's ski resorts
Page 17



Doing the Grand Tour at speed

DAY ONE

WE ARE IN NAPLES, a party of six from London, about to embark on a Grand Tour of Italy and cover in five days the sites 18th-century gentlemen took at least six months to visit. We have not been carried over the Alps in chairs, nor been held in quarantine for two months. Air travel has put an end to all that. We also lack authenticity in our collective ignorance of the Latin texts that Grand Tourists used as their yade mecum to identify the places of antiquity. Nor do our phrase books contain such useful exhortations in Italian as, "Driver, whip on the horses, there are bandits behind us".

First stop is Pompeii, where we meet our English-speaking guide who is to take us on the statutory Priapic tour. Along with hundreds of other visitors we are shown paintings of phallic symbols, the brothels and private rooms of dubious purpose. There is, of course, much more to Pompeii than this. The site was discovered by accident in 1748 and became the archaeological preserve of the Bourbon kings of Naples.

Our 18th-century forebears would probably have been as fascinated as we were with the Roman gardens and orchards that have been replanted with what archaeologists have ascertained to be the original plants.

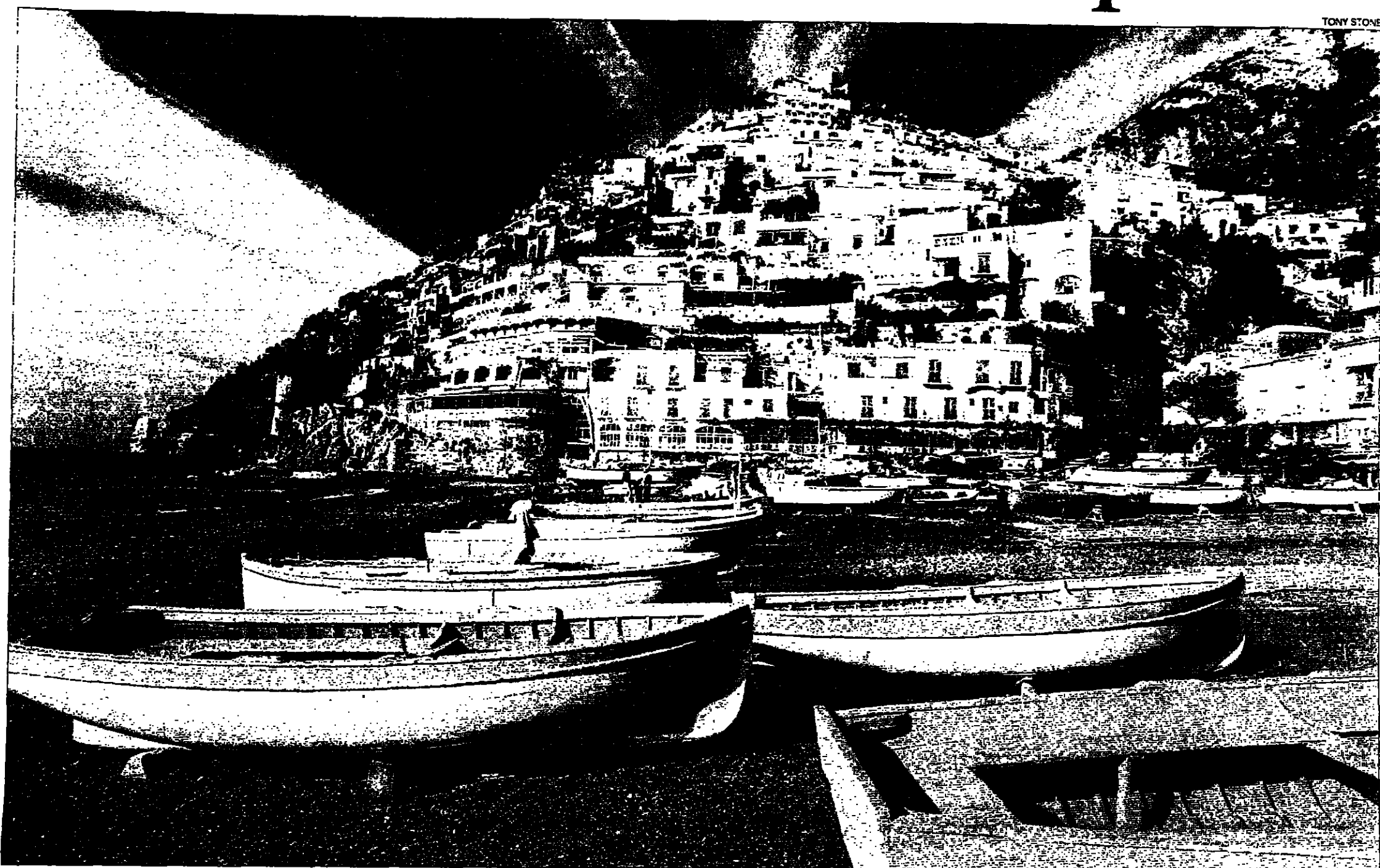
There are many more tours that Pompeii could offer, waiting to be devised.

In the afternoon we head back to Naples and the Capodimonte Museum, which reopened last autumn after major redecoration and a rehanging. Grand Tourists would have been more interested in the evening entertainments and bear hunts laid on by the Bourbons, in this their hunting lodge, than the great Farnese collection of paintings. Among them we admire works by Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli, Titian, El Greco and Brueghel.

This evening we are treated to seats in the royal box at the San Carlo opera house, built in 1737, to see *La Traviata*. Fans and hankies are brought out by the audience in equal quantities to cope with the heat and the emotion.

DAY TWO

LEAVING NAPLES at 9am we head up the motorway for Rome and arrive at the Colosseum by 12.30pm, in the searing heat. In a corner of this great ruin, the 18th-century antiquities dealer



Amalfi in the Bay of Naples much as the 18th-century Grand Tourists might have seen it while journeying from Rome to inspect the ruins of Pompeii, the archaeological preserve of the Bourbon kings of Naples

Thomas Jenkins had a flourishing business selling to Grand Tourists faked intaglios and cameos — the precursors of today's plastic souvenirs.

Our attempts to buy tickets to enter the Forum are thwarted by an official lack of change in the ticket office, though our eyes have unofficial evidence of the contrary. I muse on the fact that Grand Tourists would have found no fences or ticket offices. Their frustrations with Italian bureaucracy came in other forms.

Once inside, the magic of the ruins takes over and we marvel at the size of the Basilica of Constantine and speculate where Gibbon was sitting when he decided to write *The History of the Decline and Fall of the*

Roman Empire. After lunch, to the Capitoline Museums, opened in 1734 and the first public museum in Italy. These museums of antique sculpture were a must on the Grand Tour and the layout has hardly changed since the 18th century. The statue of *The Dying Gaul*, a barbarian captive with a rope round his neck, killed by a gladiator, has true classical nobility. The *Capitoline Venus*, about whose charms many Grand Tourists waxed lyrical, is roped off in her private rotunda.

In Piazza del Collegio Romano nearby, the Galleria Doria Pamphili, which houses the excellent collection of paintings that this great Roman family opened to visitors more than 200 years ago, has been restored and rehanged.

PLANNING THE GRAND TOUR

■ The Magic of Italy (sister company Italian Escapades), 227 Shepherd Bush Road, London W6 7AS (reservations 0181-748 7575) offers a range of holidays to Italy including, from 1997, a ten-day Grand Tour of Rome, Florence, Venice and Verona by luxury coach. This costs £999, including flights into Rome and out of Venice and 4-star B&B accommodation.

A range of flexible two-night city breaks to Rome, Florence, Venice, Naples and Palermo with Italian Escapades are available from £261, including return flights.

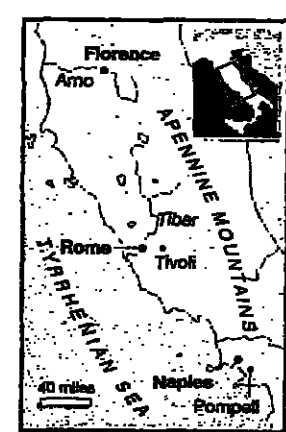
■ In Naples, the author stayed at the Hotel Excelsior, via Partenope 48 (00 39 81 764011), single from £122 a night, double £182; in Rome, the Hotel Claridge, viale Liegi 62 (00 39 6841 9212), single from £105 a night, double £147. To stay in Keats's House in Rome, or Brownings's Casa Guidi in Florence, contact the Landmark Trust on 01628 825925.

■ Visits to the opera are available as part of a package with the Magic of Italy or Italian Escapades. For individual bookings to the opera (without travel arrangements) call Liaisons Abroad on 0171-376 4020.

■ Books to read: *The Child of Pleasure* by G. D'Annunzio (Dedalus, £7.99, ISBN 0 946 62660 X); *Florence: The Biography of a City* by Christopher Hibbert (Penguin, £15, ISBN 0 140 16644 0); *Naples 44* by Norman Lewis (Eland, £8.99, ISBN 0 907 57145 3); *Italy: The Rough Guide* (£12.99, ISBN 0 864 42224 5).

fans of water still play, however, to evoke the appeal of the gardens to the Rococo artist. Fragonard, whose sketch we can match to the original grotto.

We have nothing on record about Grand Tourists swimming in sulphur baths, but when our request is put to our hosts, the Tivoli tourist board, it is clearly eccentric enough to qualify as odd English behaviour in the 18th-century tradition. Only one of our party goes so far



States in the 18th century and were entitled to their pick of one-third of the finds. In those days the long galleries in which they were (and still are) displayed were painted with scenes of Egypt, Greece or ancient Rome, as appropriate to each statue. The beautiful *Sleeping Ariadne* was then thought to be Cleopatra and had a background of palm trees.

DAY FIVE

FLORENCE. Grand Tourists never stayed long in Florence; they weren't much interested in medieval or Renaissance art. One sight that was *de rigueur* however was the classical sculpture belonging to the Medici in the Tribuna and galleries of the Uffizi. Though paintings on the walls of the round Tribuna have changed, the statues of *Venus de' Medici*, the two wrestlers and so on are still there. Zoffany painted a famous picture for Queen Charlotte of all the Grand Tourists in here admiring the art in 1772-7.

In the Brancacci chapel of the church of Santa Maria del Carmine, on the far side of the Arno, I see the frescoes by Masaccio, Masolino and Lippo Lippi in their recently restored state. In 1770, Thomas Patchy, an artist who painted some acerbic caricatures of Grand Tourists, published a volume containing 24 engravings after these beautifully painted scenes. The figure of Eve in the *Expulsion from the Garden of Eden* is modelled on the *Venus de' Medici*, underlining the classical inspiration of much Renaissance art.

I end my whistlestop Grand Tour in Casa Guidi, near the Pitti Palace where Robert and Elizabeth Browning lived for 14 years from 1847, relics of the Grand Tour of the 18th century. The

apartment is now owned by Eton College, but let out to visitors by the Landmark Trust. The furniture and decorations have been returned to as they were in the Brownings' day. I reflect that to do the Grand Tour properly in modern-day Italy, the very best solution would be to live there.

ISABEL CARLISLE
● The author was a guest of Magic of Italy.

BOOKS FOR TRAVELLERS

Starting today, Weekend travel articles will include a list of recommended reading

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DAY THREE

OFF TO TIVOLI, whose cool setting in the Tiburtini hills an hour (by road) outside Rome attracted Roman emperors and aspiring popes. At Hadrian's Villa we wander through the enormous expense of ruins, marvelling at the amount of money this most cultivated of emperors must have poured into his pleasure complex. Our guide suggests that every unidentified building was a library. We later discover that Grand Tourists were equally baffled, but it is much more likely that everything that was not a bath house was a dining room, or triclinium.

We find the spot where 18th-century architect Robert Adam sketched the ruins and see the stucco ceiling decoration that inspired some of his own designs. Many of the most famous classical statues that 18th-century collectors brought back to furnish their English country houses were found here, in a marsh. The Villa d'Este, that other pleasure garden of fountains and leafy alleys, built by Cardinal Ippolito d'Este in the 16th century, is on the edge of the modern town of Tivoli. This, too, is slowly sinking into ruin, the bases of the fountains encrusted with moss and some fountains no longer working. The statue of *Diana of the Ephesians*, which was repeatedly sketched in the 18th century, no longer has water spurting from her many breasts. Perhaps this is due to modern censorship. Enough plumes, jets and

DAY FOUR

TO THE VATICAN museums and the magnificent collections of classical sculpture, which are the best in the world. After all, the Vatican controlled all archaeological excavations in the Papal

DAY FIVE

TO THE VATICAN museums and the magnificent collections of classical sculpture, which are the best in the world. After all, the Vatican controlled all archaeological excavations in the Papal

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Malaysia and the Philippines: The privately-owned island of Pangkor Laut and idyllic Marina del Nido

Life in the lapping waves of luxury

Paradise island" as a description can get a trifle overworked. It is applied to any small land-mass with silver beaches, blue seas, blue skies and a smattering of tropical forest. Not to mention endless sunshine and luxury accommodation.

However, when applied to Pangkor Laut, a tiny island off the north west coast of Malaysia, the description is more than apt but with one marked difference — the sea is green. It changes from the palest jade to a deep, deep emerald as you reach the bay of that name. For Emerald Bay on the far side of the 300-acre island has to be one of the most perfect beaches in the world. Bound on three sides by towering rainforest, it is as dramatic as it is beautiful. It also has first-class resort services — loungers, parasols, mountains of fresh towels and attendants to bring you food and drink. You can take a jeep to the bay or take a 20-minute walk through the jungle.

From this beach in 1945 Col Freddy Spencer Chapman, a British commando who had spent three years fighting behind Japanese lines, swam out to a waiting submarine and safety. (He wrote a book of his experience, *The Jungle is Neutral*, and Chapman's Bar on Emerald Bay is named after him. Later this year his widow will visit Pangkor Laut for the first time.)

When Freddy Chapman and his fellow officer Major Richard Broome pitched up on Pangkor Laut it was uninhabited. Today this emerald speck on the edge of the Straits of Malacca is a privately-owned island with 184 rooms and suites — some set among gardens, some on the edge of the jungle while others are built kampong-style on stilts over the sea.

It also sports two further beaches, three swimming pools (the one at Royal Bay is a glamorous combination of dark blue tiles and black marble) tennis and squash courts, a gym and health centre and a water sports

FACT FILE

■ The Malaysia Experience (0181-424 9548) offers five nights in Pangkor Laut and two nights in Kuala Lumpur from £895 per person in a hill villa and from £1,169 per person in a sea villa. The trip includes return flights from London to Kuala Lumpur on Malaysian Airlines.

■ Books to read: *The Jungle is Neutral*, by F. Spencer Chapman (1949, out of print); *They came to Malaya*, by J.M. Glick (OUP £12.95 (ISBN 0 195 8 8604 6)); *Malaysia and Singapore Handbook*, by Joshua Eliot, Trade and Travel £12.99 (ISBN 0 844 24909 2).

opened — somehow you know that under Mr Yip's stewardship this promise will be kept. You do not have to leave the poolside to enjoy the wildlife. In the early morning and late afternoon troops of macaque monkeys swing out of the jungle to play along the beach and sniff around for titbits. During the day the silence is broken by yellow pied hornbills chomping on the fruits of the MacArthur's palms.

When you feel more energetic, a trip to the larger island of Pangkor is worth the effort and will take only 30 minutes by boat. It also gives you the opportunity to see the boats and ships which make the Straits one of the busiest waterways in the world — as well as one of the murkiest in places. After tourism the island's main industry is fishing and preserving anchovies. The boats go out in pairs, one to catch and one to cook and when they arrive back in port the fish are laid out to dry in the sun, glistening like sequins.

area, not to mention seven restaurants serving some of the finest food anywhere. Choose from Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Indian or Nonya (an indigenous Malay mix). Feast on the lobster curry, savour a *fondue Chinoise*, enjoy a Malaysian fish-pot, a salad of lotus root or tiger prawns with ginger.

To work up an appetite take a trek through the rainforest which is almost two million years old. The resort has its own conservation specialist in Mr Yip, a knowledgeable and passionate man. He likens the destruction of the world's rainforests to having a library full of wonderful books which is being burned down before you can read them. He will take you on guided treks across the island pointing out plants, trees, birds and fungi as you go. He also arranges for iced towels and water at some halfway point.

Only 16 per cent of the island is taken up by the resort and a pledge has been made that no more than 20 per cent will ever be devel-

However, once you have bought your preserved anchovies, posted your cards, visited the snake farm, the 17th-century Dutch fort and admired the child-sized version of the Great Wall of China you will begin to hanker for paradise. It is time to return to your little house on stilts where the gentle lapping of the water soothes and calms. It is a sound impossible to tire of, unlike the never-ending strains of Pavarotti which are heard in most bars, restaurants and reception areas.

Since the world's greatest tenor gave a concert to celebrate the opening of Royal Bay two years ago his singing has lingered on. But who am I to carp? Should I be good enough to reach the other-worldly paradise I expect to hear him singing with the angels.

JO FOLEY

■ The author was a guest of The Malaysia Experience.



There are only four bungalows at the Marina del Nido on Palawan Island. The marina has no telephones or fax machines and limited electricity

Let's sing vivat Regina

I know what you're thinking. No sooner does a travel writer describe the perfect place, quite without flaw, than within a week the mob despoils it.

So at the Marina del Nido, in the Philippines Palawan archipelago, the sand which now feels like fine talc between your toes will soon be littered by the mob with their cigarette ends and discarded suntan lotion bottles as they pack the beach shoulder to greasy shoulder.

Dozens, no, hundreds of shriekers will throng the clear-blue water through which you can see multi-coloured fish swimming through coral hills and valleys, where the yobboos will drop disgusting things onto the coral and frighten away the fish.

At night, under a deep blue sky in which you can see every constellation you ever heard of, the riotous mob will cluster at the bar, swilling, baying, and being sick, shattering the night as you try to sleep in your bamboo bungalow with the fan circling slowly overhead, listening to the lizards chinking in the dark.

This is impossible. It cannot happen. There are only four perfect bungalows on the perfect sand at the edge of the perfect sea at Marina del Nido, and each one accommodates only four people. The bar is in a fifth building, a round pavilion open to the air, with a peaked roof. Like the bungalows it is made of bamboo and local timbers, strapped together, very elegant and open to every zephyr. There you eat or sit at the tiny bar, where a young island woman makes you drinks and offers you titbits to help them down.

If this is the brain-child of Regina Lim, a Filipino-Chinese architect of such illustrious lineage that her general grandfather, killed by the Japanese, is on the one thousand peso note.

Ms Lim, as elegant as her buildings, and who loves to dissect your grilled fish which was pulled out of the water a few hours earlier, imagined a place without phones or faxes — only a radio communicates with the world — and only a few hours of electricity, just enough to read by in the sonorous night before you fall asleep. You learn to love candles.

She wanted a quiet place, where you pay a small tax to help protect the environment against rubbish, spear fishing, coral breaking, and

snorkelling in coves where it would disturb the turtles. If you bring plastic and glass bottles, batteries, and lighters, you must take them with you when you leave.

The first impression of Marina del Nido is amazing. You will have flown for an hour — be sure you have a confirmed ticket — in a small plane from Manila to a big island in the Palawan archipelago which edges into the vast South China sea — Conrad-country. You land on a dirt strip. You collect your single bag — bring few clothes — and walk across to a still green river under the tropical trees.

A motor launch then takes you down the river for three minutes to the sea where it plunges through the surf. Another three minutes and you clamber into a waiting banca, a long narrow double-outrigger. As you sit across an awning one of the crew whacks open a coconut for you to drink from.

An hour passes as you glide past islands, each with a strip of beach, coconut palms, and a soaring lime-

stone cliff. These little mountains, home to millions of bats and the swallows whose nests Chinese boil up for the slimy soup which costs a mandarin's ransom, dot the sea. At last, during the most spectacular sunset you ever saw, a particularly beautiful island appears. Malapacan. Just behind the extra-long white beach and in the shadow of a sway-backed mountain, sit four bamboo bungalows with circular porches, and a pavilion. A jetty points into the sea. This is Marina del Nido.

Once there, what is there to do, besides eating the prawns, lobsters, grilled fish, roast pork, local chicken and fruit? You sway in the hammock slung on your own porch and read and sleep. Borrow a face mask and snorkel, wade into the pellucid water, swim ten strokes and when you are over the reef peer into the coral-fish jungle.

At dusk, at six o'clock exactly, you watch one mil-

lion fruit bats flutter out of their caves high overhead and stream across the sky pursued by sea-eagles which appear at 6.01 ready to swoop down and pick off their dinners. The remaining 999,993 bats swarm two miles over the sea to a mangrove swamp where batnip grows.

You can bring your own yacht here if you want — arrangements can be made for mooring and maintenance by trained personnel. Or you can hire a banca outrigger for the day for a gentle cruise to other islands, other beaches, where lagoons conceal caves into which you crawl and gaze up at the cathedral ceilings. You lie on that beach, snorkel or swim, nap, and eat the picnic the crew lays out for you. If you drop a fragment of grilled chicken busy little hermit crabs scuttle up and trundle it away.

Sometimes Regina gives a party. There are flowers and candles on the tables which have been carried out of the pavilion onto the grass. By now you have become

slightly friendly with the other guests, from France, Italy, Britain, and Hong Kong.

Marina del Nido is a sheltered bay, so one or two have anchored their yachts off shore. You see tiny red lights across the glittering water. There is a roast pig. As you eat under the stars water laps nearby and fish leap and splash.

On late afternoons Rigor the chef may appear. He will already have taught you how to explore the coral reefs, to slither into caves. He may invite you onto the jetty to fish for squid. You catch one or two who fall for Rigor's wooden shrimp-lookalike lure with red glass eyes.

There is a frantic splash, a spurt of ink into the air and soon a foot-long thing from outer-space lies heaving on the jetty, translucent, creamy white, with huge bulging eyes in whose centres gleam golden disks. You eat these creatures deep fried that night. You can keep your calamari.

JONATHAN MIRSKY



The luxury villas at Coral Bay in Pangkor Laut are built on stilts over the sea

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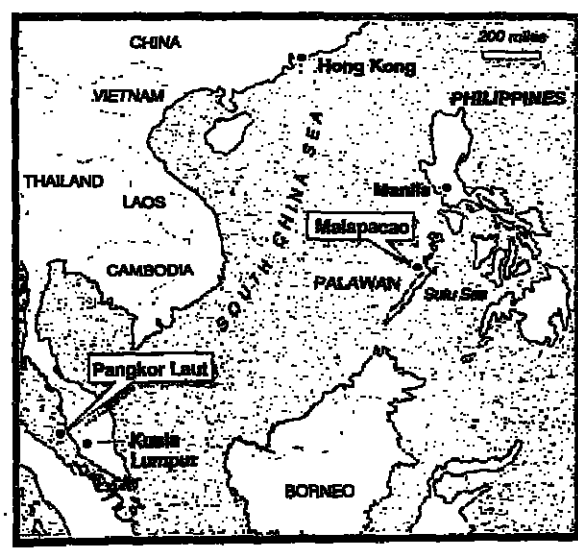
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MARINA DEL NIDO FACT FILE

- Philippine Airlines (01773 830951) fly from Heathrow to Manila (£530 return) and Manila to El Nido (£110 return). Do not leave the UK without a confirmed ticket for El Nido. Transfer from landing strip to Marina Del Nido by outrigger, £14 round trip. Outrigger hire £60 per day and £30 per half day.
- Accommodation on Marina del Nido costs £68 per night all year round (£16 for children). Three meals per day is £27 (£13 for children). To book bungalows telephone Manila 00 632 831 1487, fax 00 632 8319816.
- Visas are required for more than a 21-day stay from the Philippine Tourist Board (0171-499 5443).
- Environmental fund on island is £10 and all rates subject to 10 per cent service plus government taxes. No phone or fax on island, all communication by radio.
- Books to read: *The Travel Bookshop*, 13 Blenheim Crescent, W11 suggests *The Ghosts of Manila*, by James Hamilton-Palerson, Vintage £6.99 (ISBN 0 099 28811 2); *Little Brown Brother*, by Leo Wolff, OUP £9.99 (ISBN 0 195 88986 X); *Philippines Travel Survival Kit*, Lonely Planet £9.95 (ISBN 0 864 42224 5).



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International skiing: Part two of Doug Sager's detailed round-up of ski countries features American resorts

The Brits head for the west

LESS than a decade ago skiing in America was regarded as an extravagant option. Now it is commonplace. Last winter one tour operator alone took 5,000 British schoolchildren to ski there. But the advantages have to be weighed against the inconveniences.

American holidays are ideal when stretched over two weeks and several resorts, such as Aspen, Breckenridge and Vail, where ski passes cover neighbouring resorts at no extra cost. Serious skiers who value snow quality know they won't be "browned off". And parents know that patrolled and enforced slow skiing zones and fenced-off learning areas make skiing in any American resort far safer than in the Alps.

Against this is the first few days of jet lag at high altitude after a ten-hour flight. And, despite the excellent accommodation and skiing, the price tag, especially for ski passes, is higher than for most resorts in the Alps.

ASPEN, COLORADO

FIFTY years old this winter, Aspen still sizzles. Small and flat enough to walk around in comfort, it entertains on every corner. Less expensive than Courchevel or Zermatt, it is devoid of nouveau riche pretension and comes across as a real skiing town.

The ski pass covers Aspen Mountain (no snowboarders), Snowmass (12 miles away) and Aspen Highlands, one of the steepest and most rewarding hills in America.

ing well with local residents, famous for their mountain bikes fitted with ski racks and studded snow tyres, and for skiing naked on "Crested Butte" closing day. Another tradition, free ski passes for a month at the beginning and two weeks at the end of the season, continues this year.

It is a venue for snowboard and skiing daredevil competitions, and prides itself on a tolerance for eccentrics.

VAIL, COLORADO

THE MOST popular resort in America with American skiers, Vail suffers and soars on its American values. It's big, twinned with Beaver Creek, and about to merge with Keystone, Breckenridge and Arapahoe Basin. But despite its legendary back bowls and a rating as number one in America for après ski, it's anodyne.

Excellent grooming, quick lifts and a car-free village make Vail the best introduction to America for first-time visitors. And it comes closest of any resort in the world to being all things for all skiers, with consequent caveats.

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING

THE WEATHER is brutal, the tram needs replacing and the town is choked with queues. Skiing is 12 miles from town, via an irregular

CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO

A SURPRISING number of Britons have bought second homes in Crested Butte, mix-



Going places, fast: Colorado, which includes Aspen, Breckenridge, Crested Butte and Vail, vies with the Alps and has some of the best skiing and accommodation in America

and grindingly slow bus. This is the resort which defines America's best skiing experience. The town is a treasure, still with an unspoilt, tobacco-chewing, cowboy ambience. The view from the shuttle-bus window is out of a John Ford movie. And the skiing is hard-core heaven — bumps, powder steeps and fall-away chutes. Few frills, full thrills.

TAOS, NEW MEXICO

AMERICA's most European-inspired skiing, with the best ski school on the continent, yet Taos is mercifully spared overcrowding by its inconvenient access. About three hours from Albuquerque, the town is a further 19 miles from the ski area. This, however, is an area of radiant sunshine, Pueblo villages and an "artists' colony" — once inhabited by D.H. Lawrence.

The skiing is steep, even intimidating. But the standards set at the ski school by its Swiss founder, Ernie Blake, help counter this.

ALTA, UTAH

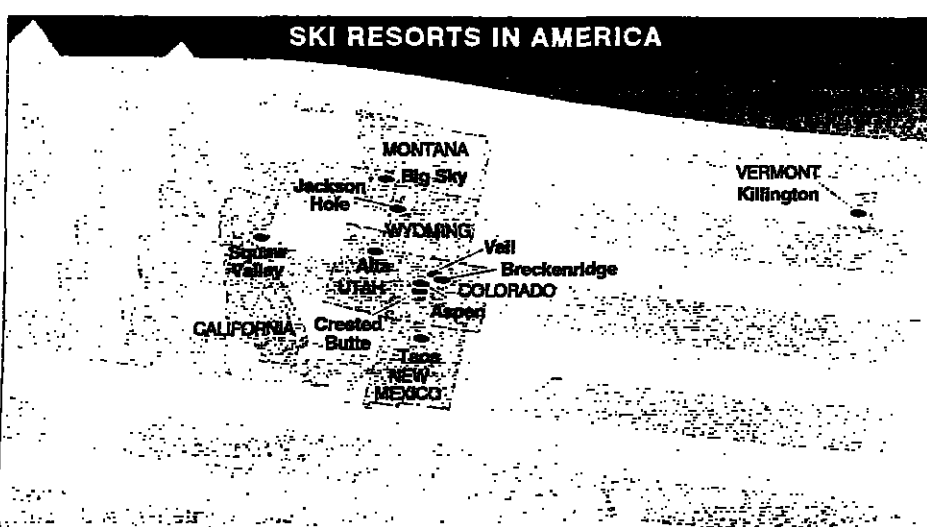
THAT RARITY, an American resort with gritty character, and that impossibility, one which is unquestionably affordable, Alta needs some serious drawbacks to keep its snow from being swamped. Indeed, accommodation is limited and basic in character, the road is often closed by avalanches, the lifts are ancient and slow, and there is no nightlife. Yes, but the lift ticket costs \$27 (£17) a day for the best quality snow (about 40ft per winter) on the planet. And snowboarders are banned.

KILLINGTON, VERMONT

IT SEEMS perverse to ski anywhere on America's eastern coast, renowned for its sheet ice, numbing cold and horrendous overcrowding — but all America's worst skiers certainly do. Killington is the pride of New England. Everything man can do, in terms of modern lift networks, snow-making and trail-marking, has been done here best. When nature condescends, as it did last year with tons of fresh snow, Killington's gladed trails can rival the best of the west.

SQUAW VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

"THE BEST thing about Squaw," some say, "is that people from LA ski at Heavenly." Nearby Heavenly, straddling the California-



Nevada border, is America's largest skiing area, right on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

An Olympic resort, Squaw is American skiing with class. Overcrowded on weekends, its vast snowfields are empty during the week and encompass terrain which ranges from awe-inspiring to ego-inflating.

BIG SKY, MONTANA

British skiers are now pushing the frontiers to Montana, a mecca for lots of light, dry snow. Big Sky has America's longest vertical drop (about 4,220ft) and is permanently devoid of queues. There is little in the way of amenities, and access is awkward — it takes at least an hour over indifferent roads to get from the airport at Bozeman. But sufferers from lift-queue burnout consider it a pilgrimage, and a privilege, to ski the Big Empty.

AMERICAN SKIING FACT FILE

■ **TOUR OPERATORS:** Crystal (0181-399 5144) is the leader in ski tours to America, with 20 resorts. Inghams (0181-780 4444) offers 11 resorts, eight with catered chalets. Neilson (0133-239 4555) features five resorts in Colorado, none with chalets. Thomson (0990 329329) and First Choice (0161-745 7000) offer four Colorado resorts, with hotel or condominium accommodation. Airtours (01706 260000) has three resorts, including Vail and Mammoth Mountain in California. Ski the American Dream (0181-470 1181) has the most flexible programme, with 25 resorts featuring hotels, condominiums and chalets. Ski Independence (0990 550555) features a price-conscious programme, including chalets in some of its 17 resorts. Virgin (01293 617181) flies to Boston and California, offering holidays in New England, Utah and Tahoe. Ski Equipe (0161-440 0010) offers a catered, working ranch chalet outside Crested Butte.

■ **SOME operators quote prices for rooms based on four people sharing, making holidays seem to be cheaper than they really are. Many luxury chalets ban children unless the whole chalet is booked by one party.**

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DAY 7 Visit the imposing Eight Outer Temple followed by the visit to Bangou Peak by cable car. (BL)
DAY 8 Drive back to Beijing for the short flight to Xian and transfer to the tourist class Empress Hotel. (B)
DAY 9 Full day visit to the world renowned Terracotta Warriors, the nearby Hua Qing Hot Spring and Banna Neolithic Museum. Back in the City, visit the Ming City Wall. (BL)
DAY 10 Fly back to Beijing for 2 more nights. (B)
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DAY 12 Depart Beijing in the afternoon, arriving at Heathrow the same day. (B)

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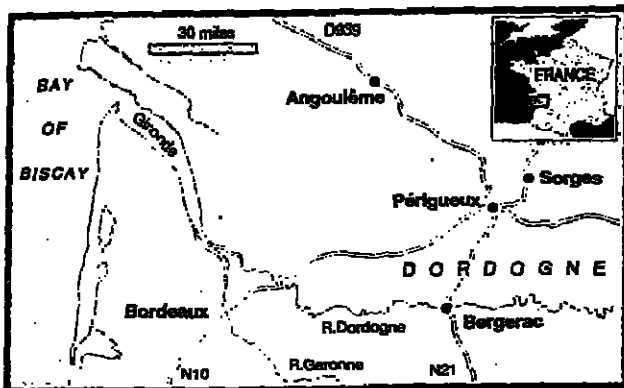
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France: One man and his dog in the Périgord countryside lead hunters by the nose to the region's 'black gold'

Truffles worth sniffing about

Like many city-dwellers, I suspect, I love the idea of hunting, shooting and fishing, but I do have a spot of bother with the business end of such things. Saddle me up, draw me a peg and... do whatever it is that fishing people do, but please don't ask me to kill anything. Nothing ethical or moral about that, just a bad case of soft, southern, suburban squeamishness. You can go away and can kill things to your heart's content and, with the exception of the fox, I shall be delighted to share the end result with you at dinner. Just spare me the grisly details.

But now help is at hand for people like me who also enjoy an energetic day out in the countryside followed by a memorable dinner. You get to dress up (boots or wellingtons definitely, beret optional), you become master of a highly trained working dog and, best of all, not a single drop of blood is shed in the



pursuit of your fiendishly elusive quarry. In short, I have discovered the joys of truffle-hunting.

A lot of myths surround truffles, most of them invented by the French to put us foreigners off. But a bright, wintry morning spent in the Périgord countryside in the company of Henry Dessolas and his tireless, truffle-hunting dog, Kiki, will dispel most of them. Truffles, or *Tuber melanosporum*, are not impossible to find by amateurs, just difficult. In a couple of hours, with the help of M. Dessolas and his dog, we found five in the grounds of the aptly named Château des Truffes.

To be precise, Kiki found four, which he signalled by pawing at the ground in a particular spot. M. Dessolas would then dig down with a small pick-axe, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. Either way, Kiki got a piece of meat as reward. As his owner said, if Kiki indicated there was a truffle there, there probably was, but sometimes it was too deep to be got at.

The fifth truffle (one of two decent, golf-ball sized specimens we found) was spotted by M. Dessolas while Kiki was pre-occupied with something more interesting. Suddenly, M. Dessolas stopped, sniffed magnificently and dropped to his knees.

"Regardez les mouches," he whispered. We regarded and there, indeed, was a thin column of tell-tale truffle flies rising from the soil. A couple of swings of his mini-pick axe, *et voilà*...

Froudly M. Dessolas held the truffle aloft for us to inspect, and sniff. I inhaled deeply and immediately joined the long line of writers who have failed to come up with the right adjectives to describe the aroma of the truffle. "Earthy," I scribbled down rather feebly in my notebook, hoping to come up with something better later. I failed.

One of the old myths about truffle-hunting is the need for pigs to track them down. M. Dessolas gave a shrug of



Though pigs are normally associated with snouting for truffles, in the Périgord it's a dog's job to sniff out the well-hidden, precious and tasty tubers

disgust when the subject was broached. Pigs were greedy, uncontrollable and had virtually gone out with the ark, he said. But then he recalled that he did know of one old peasant, who lived nearer the Dordogne, who still kept a truffle-hunting pig. "But he charges 2,000 francs [about £266] a session."

Another truffle myth is not so much a myth as a mystery. Truffles, the black gold of France, are expensive. But nobody seems to know how expensive. Recent quotes have ranged from £200 a kilo to almost £500 a kilo.

In search of the truth, I spent a sunny morning at the Saturday market in Périgueux. The stalls were stuffed with every bit of duck

and goose you could imagine (and several you might rather not) but of truffles, fresh truffles, there was no sign. It seemed we had missed the annual truffle market held nearby at Sorges by a week. For the moment, the whole of Périgord was fresh out of truffles, and the mystery of what they really cost remained.

But we had truffles. Thanks to M. Dessolas, Kiki and those obliging flies we had five, which brings me to an important bit of truffle-hunting etiquette. The hunt has its own rules — especially when it comes to dividing the spoils.

Tradition has it that when the services of a truffle-hunter have been called on

the truffles found are divided equally between the landowner and the truffle-hunter. It is, or was, tradition that evolved long before we British started to fly into Bordeaux to try our luck.

Apply for us, there is a new convention: the truffles are divided three ways, a third to the truffle-hunter, a third to the landowner and a third to the visitor.

Magnanimously, M. Dessolas waived his entitlement. It had been his pleasure and Kiki's, of course — if our host could perhaps allow him to come back one afternoon and try again... Our host agreed and then, even more

generously, said he would be content with the three small truffles, perfect for flavouring some oil.

That left five of us to fight over two precious bits of fungi. At that point, I had a vision of trying to explain to a Customs officer at Heathrow that the fragrant lumps of organic matter lurking in the bottom of that small polythene bag were a few grams of perfectly legal Périgord Gold. I waived my entitlement immediately.

To be honest, my generosity stemmed largely from the knowledge that we were about to lunch at Auberges des Truffes in Sorges, one of the best truffle restaurants in the region. Our own truffles spent the afternoon nestling

in the château's egg basket. The climax to the day was a perfect, if rather piggy, late supper of the best scrambled eggs I have ever tasted.

MATTHEW BOND

● The author was a guest of Crystal France.



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FACT FILE

■ Crystal France (0181-390 3335) organises truffle-hunting weekends for a minimum of four people throughout the season, from early November to the end of March.

■ A three-night break (Fri-Mon) costs £399 per person, including flights, accommodation at the four-star Château des Truffes, car hire and a welcome hamper.

■ Gourmet Espionnage (0117-924 3617) offers truffle weekends for parties of eight between December 1996 and February 1997 at £756 per person, including flights, two nights in a three-star hotel and truffle dinner tastings.

■ Reading: the Travel Bookshop, 13 Blenheim Crescent, London W11, suggests: *Truffles — the Black Diamond and Other Kinds*, by Jean Marie Roodhila (Avignon, £19.95, ISBN 2 879 23050 0); *Travels*



Truffles: the welcome harvest of a day's hunting

with a Donkey in the Cévennes, by R.L. Stevenson (OUP, £4.99, ISBN 0 192 82629 8); and *Cadogan Guide to South West France: Dordogne, Lot and*

Bordeaux, by Dana Facaros and Michael Pauls (Cadogan, £12.99, ISBN 0 947 75470 9).

■ The French Tourist Board, 0891 244123.

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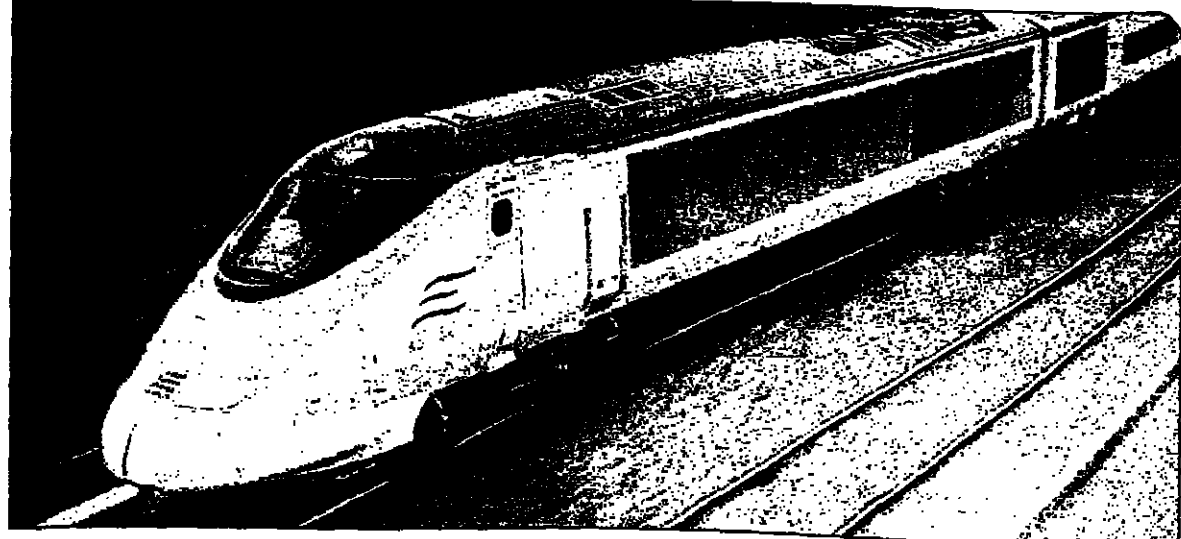
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Cruising: Expert advice from a celebrity wine taster, plus drinking in the stunning New Zealand scenery

Antipodean delights, all bottled up



Marine Parade in Napier

I am going to make your tastebuds sing," said Jilly Gooden, star of BBC2's *Food and Drink* programme. "If they don't, I will have failed."

At the time it seemed a tall order. We were aboard the cruise ship *Marco Polo*, riding waves up to 50ft high and heading into winds gusting up to 80 knots.

Now swirl. Now really fill your nose up and get as much into it as you can. I want to see a really good sniff. Now make your mouth into a cherub."

Four hundred of us obediently swirled, sniffed and cherubed. Some of the American passengers stiffened as Gooden went on to extol the aesthetic advantages of the fixed cherubic grin over the "dog's bum" the pursed lips commonly used by connoisseurs.

She sniffed a 1994 Montana Marlborough Riesling. "Do you smell alpine flowers? And just a hint of petrol, petrol spilt on the station forecourt. Delicious."

Australians would call Gooden a "beaut little botler" — not a description of



One of the natural wonders of the world: Milford Sound, the 14 mile-long fiord dominated by the 5,000ft-high Mitre Peak. Despite helicopter trips for cruise passengers, it maintains a profound stillness

her knowledge of wine, but her gameness. A poor sailor, she pre-tasted all six wines and held the rocking stage until the tasting of the pudding wine, when she bolted for the ladies.

She was taking her own small party around the vineyards of New Zealand and Australia but she was also one of the celebrity lecturers who are a regular feature of the cruises.

The *Marco Polo* was cruising between two of the world's great harbours, Auckland and Sydney, via four other New Zealand ports, three Tasmanian and Melbourne.

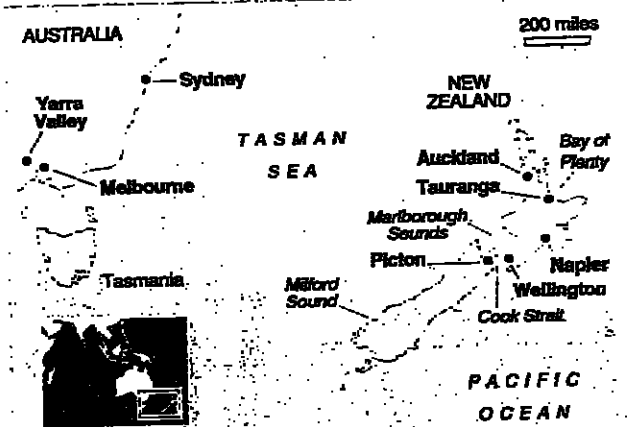
The sturdy German-built ship started life as the *Alexander Pushkin*. Her interior has been stylishly converted to a 1930s look, with widespread use of mirrored glass. The public rooms are elegant, particularly a small Art Deco-inspired bar off the casino. Cabins are comfortable rather than spectacular, with spacious bathrooms.

The European-style food is better than that available on some more expensive ships. At a typical dinner we could choose entrées from roast breast of turkey, loin of salmon, filet mignon and sauté of duckling, as well as a vegetarian menu.

Unusually for a cruise outside Europe, British passengers outnumbered the Americans. We were a mixed lot: surgeons and lawyers, teachers, small businessmen and the retired. Barbara, in early middle age, from Leicester, who was one of many passengers travelling alone, said: "I enjoy the friendliness of the ship. One advantage for me is that they charge only a 25 per cent premium for the sole use of a single cabin on the long-distance cruises."

Though Auckland's museum with its collection of Maori art cannot be missed, the star of the city is the view from Mount Eden. Houses stretch to the sea in a patchwork of red, green, brown and blue roofs, each on its own quarter-acre. Traffic streams to the North Shore over the "Nippon Clip-on" — so called because the Japanese were called in to add four extra lanes soon after it was built.

Is New Zealand the



world's most houseproud nation? We travelled along dozens of roads — the guides in true Antipodean fashion telling us the house price in each — without seeing an untidy garden.

The four-star *Marco Polo* aims to provide cruises at reasonable prices to destinations off the main tourist itinerary. So we called at the Western Bay of Plenty, which houses the port of Tauranga, rather than the Bay of Islands. It has one of the finest climates in the country and the journey to Rotorua and its geysers passes through acres of orchards and forests.

Napier, too, is off the overseas tourist track. It deserves to be better known. Much of the town was destroyed in 1931 in an earthquake and fire and comprehensively rebuilt in a lively Art Deco style, which includes the marine parade, the sculptures and the municipal gardens.

Nervous cruise passengers in Wellington, our next port, should skip the Maritime Museum — where a model of the sinking of the *Titanic* sets the tone for an exhibition of disasters in the Cook Straits — and concentrate on Katherine Mansfield's house, an acute evocation of upper-middle-class New Zealand life at the turn of the century.

From the attractive small port of Picton, we sailed through two of the world's natural wonders: the islands, bays and coves of the Marlborough Sounds and Milford Sound, the beautiful 14

mile-long fiord dominated by the 5,000ft Mitre Peak.

Still water reflected sheer cliffs. More than 750 people were aboard a 20,502-ton ship. A sightseeing helicopter took off at regular intervals, but there was a majestic stillness.

The storm which greeted us when we left was definitely not part of the usual cruising experience. David Diamond, the magician, who explained his tricks among the huge seas, said: "In ten years at sea I have never seen anything like this." Two grand pianos were among the casualties. The heroes were the cheerful Filipino waiters, who weaved their way through the tables bearing trays stacked with ten covered dishes and crockery slid off the tables.

Only 4 per cent of foreign visitors reach Tasmania and

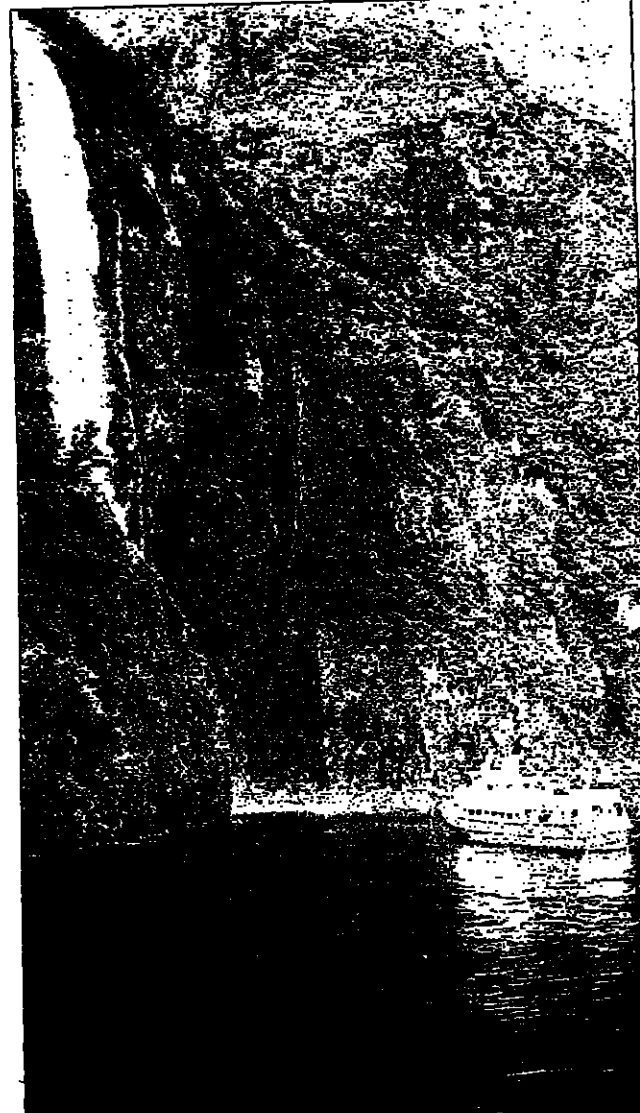
we almost did not join them. The storm slowed us to five knots and Captain Erik Bjurstedt, who spent hours on the bridge, had time only to put into the small town of Devonport. This gave us a taste of a land of rolling countryside and square Georgian houses.

Melbourne, our guide told us, is famous for the three fs: fashion, finance and food. "And flies," added one passenger. We tagged on to the Golden party and tasted sauvignon blancs, chardonnays and cabernets at the Yering Station and Yarra Ridge wineries, overlooking the sweeping plains of the Yarra Valley. We sailed past the heads into Sydney as the sun rose behind the harbour bridge. Gradually the sails of the Opera House became distinct.

Even without being part of Gooden's expert group, the cruise had taught us a lot about — and, if possible, inspired a greater fondness for — Antipodean wines. And the taste buds? They were singing as if Dame Kiri Te Kanawa had teamed up with Dame Nellie Melba for the duet in *Così fan Tutte* as we stepped on to Circular Quay.

JOHN GRIGSBY

● The author was the guest of Orient Lines and travelled to Auckland by Singapore Airlines.



Stirling Falls, found on South Island, New Zealand

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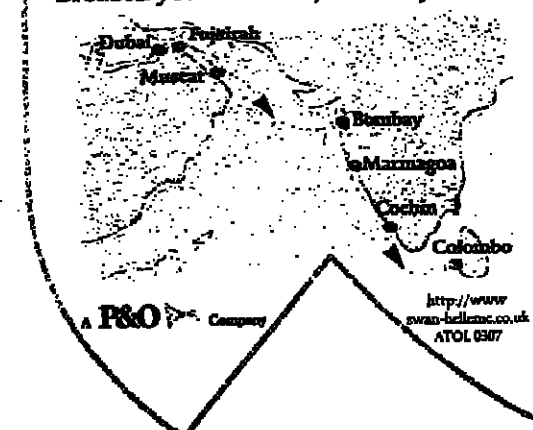
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■ **Orient Lines** (Europe), 38 Park Street, London W1Y 3PF (0171-409-2500). Singapore Airlines, 0181-747 0007.

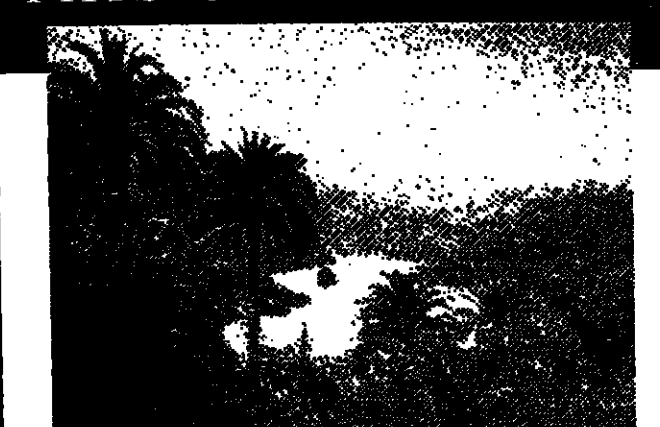
■ A waiting list is open for a 21-day cruise-tour of Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand departing from Britain on March 25. Prices from £1,572 per person, including air fares and accommodation.

■ **Special offers on Far East cruises in 1997** include 15-day highlights of South East Asia, departing from Britain on March 25. Prices from £1,572 per person, including air fares and accommodation.

■ **Reading: The Travel Bookshop**, 13 Blenheim Crescent, London W11, suggests *The Fatal Shore*, by Robert Hughes (Pan, £11.99, ISBN 0 330 29892 5); *The Collected Stories*, by Katherine Mansfield, (Constable, £7.50, ISBN 0 094 51240 X); and *Insight Guides' Australia* (£13.99, ISBN 0 9624 2024 0), and *New Zealand* (£12.99, ISBN 0 9624 2121 0).

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Britain: Bath, Edinburgh and Lincoln offer rich — and varying — rewards to visitors on a weekend break

The elegance that's not just a façade

"OH, WHO CAN ever grow tired of Bath?" cried Catherine, the enraptured heroine of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*. After 1702, when Queen Anne first visited the dozy little West Country spa, the whole of fashionable society fluttered in her wake. Gradually the squares and crescents, crescents and colonnades of an elegant Georgian city grew up. By Jane Austen's era the honey-coloured limestone of its Palladian landscape formed the backdrop against which all the civilities and compliments of genteel life were exchanged between October and February every year.

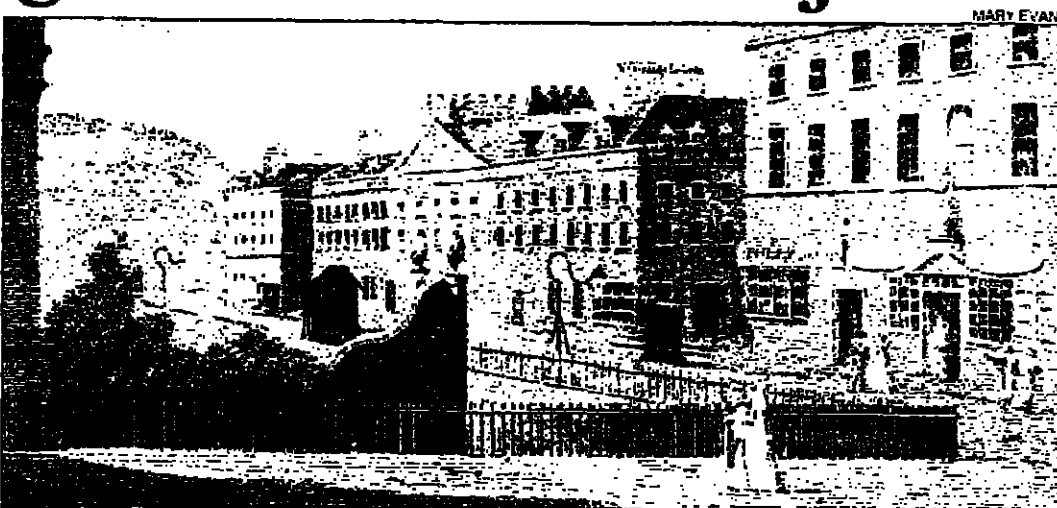
The flavour of an Austenesque age still lingers in Bath — though not most pleasantly in a glass of the waters which taste, it has been said, "like warm flat irons". But the handsome chambers of the Grand Pump Room remain and the chandeliered Assembly Rooms where society used to meet daily to gamble and gossip.

Ponies and traps, though in a rather different mould to the smart phaetons which once trotted briskly down Great Pulteney Street, still trundle tourists round a city centre much of which, closed to traffic, is opened to a gallimaufry of street entertainers.

But in the absence of sedan chairs, for which the wide pavements and broad doorways of Bath are especially designed, the best way to see the city is on foot. It can be comfortably perambulated in a day.

Historically a tour should begin at the Roman baths, built almost 2,000 years ago when the marshes around the River Avon were first drained and their thermal springs channelled into a warm pool in which to relax. Bath Abbey, with its fan vaulting and the flaring clerestory windows which earned it the nickname of "the lantern of the West", stands nearby. The first stone of the cathedral was laid in 1499 when Bath was still a sleepy provincial town, visited only by the colicky and the crippled, but for the most part medieval architecture has been swept aside by the classical façades of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Pedestrians can stroll the broad streets, march up to the top of the Grand Old Duke of York's original hill and wander round the sweep of the Royal Crescent. No 1



Grace and favour, 1803: North Parade displays the Palladian architecture of Jane Austen's time

is preserved in period style — authentic, even to the freshly whipped syllabub on the kitchen table. On the way down towards the city centre there is a Georgian garden with clipped box borders and topiary yews. It is worth a visit before meandering back, via Queen Square where Austen once

resided, to the Pump Room where traditional teas are served to the accompaniment of the Pump Room Trio, the oldest resident ensemble in England.

To stay at Lucknam Park, seven miles from Bath, is to continue to bask in an 18th-century style of life. A country

house hotel, built in 1720 and set in a 500-acre parkland, it is an ideal place from which to explore Wiltshire's quintessentially English countryside.

Lucknam's equestrian centre can provide elegant mounts and from the vantage point of the saddle the rider can gaze over

hedgerows to enjoy views that stretch from the Mendips to the White Horse Hills, or peep over garden walls into pocket-handkerchief-sized cottage gardens.

In summer the green tunnelled lanes, with their high banks frothing with cow parsley, the buttercup meadows and the beechwoods dusky with bluebells are equally well explored on foot. Within walking distance is Castle Combe, reputedly the prettiest village in England, with its grey limestone cottages with mul-ti-paned windows and gabled roofs.

From time to time the village is mobbed by fevered film crews scrabbling for the air of Austenesque authenticity. But on a quiet evening, the old White Hart Inn opposite the ancient market cross is a perfect place to pause for a while and breathe in the atmosphere of a more tranquil rural age.

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

The author was a guest of Lucknam Park

BATH FILE

■ Lucknam Park, Colerne, Wiltshire SN14 8AZ (01225 742777). Singles from £120, doubles from £170.
■ Other places to stay: At the Sign of the Angel, Lacock (01249 730230). Single from £50, double £70. Weekend and midweek breaks from £50 with dinner, bed and breakfast. Priory Steps, Bradford-on-Avon (01225 862230) from £40 single, £70 double. Set dinner £16.
■ Places to visit from Bath: Sheldon Manor (three miles away): Wiltshire's oldest manor house, lived in since 1282. Open from Easter (01249 653120). Corsham Court (six miles): Elizabethan house with picture gallery and superb gardens. Open all year (01249 701610).
■ Places to visit from Lucknam Park: Bowood House (seven miles), 18th-century architecture with a park laid out by Capability Brown. Open until Nov 3 (01249 512102). Lacock (eight miles), National Trust village of timbered 16th-century cottages and ancient abbey. Open until Nov 3, then from March.
■ See also box below.

Affecting views and sound effects

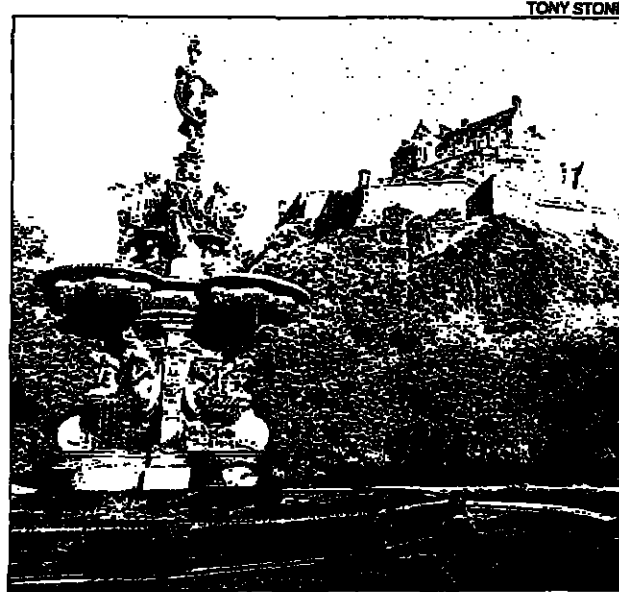
Halfway to Edinburgh on the Intercity train, a Scotsman sitting across the aisle inquired if this was our first visit. Yes, it was. "Ah well, hen, you're in for a treat then," came the confident reply. And so it proved.

If you live in the Home Counties and your natural inclination is always to head south rather than north, you really need an incentive to go to Edinburgh. Ours was the offer of a university place for my daughter with an invitation to the English department's open day. Thus spurred, we treated ourselves to two foot-slogging days of sightseeing from our comfortable base at the Calverley Hotel on Princes Street.

The first trick for novices is to realise that the High Street and the Royal Mile are, for the most part, one and the same and both names are used — one street map did not have the words Royal Mile on it at all, occasioning some head-scratching. The second is to appreciate that the terrain is hilly and mostly cobbled — not for the infirm or ill-shod.

The rewards for our labours were, however, literally breathtaking. With unseasonal blue skies and sunshine over our heads, we strolled down Princes Street in the lee of the mighty volcanic crag which carries the castle on its crest, across the crocus-filled gardens and up to the Royal Mile. Friends had recommended the Camera Obscura on Castlehill as an unmissable attraction; this turned out to be a wonderful low-technology delight, completely baffling the Japanese students who mounted the stairs with us to see it. Across the way the Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre beckoned with the promise of a wee dram, but so did the castle with the promise of rich history, and I can always have a wee dram at home, I figured.

The castle offers the thrill



Edinburgh Castle, perched on top of a volcanic crag

of your own portable guide on a state-of-the-art personal CD player, complete with terrific sound effects ("You are now entering the old dungeon" CLANG! MOAN! GROAN!), and stunning views — on a clear day — across the Georgian "new town" to the ships in the

EDINBURGH FILE

■ Highlife Breaks, PO Box 139, Leeds LS2 7TE (freephone 0800 700400), offers inclusive holidays throughout the UK by air, rail or coach. It has a choice of three, four or five-star hotels in Edinburgh. The cost per person for standard return rail travel from southeast England plus one night's B&B starts at £94 off-peak in a three-star hotel. An extra night costs £38.
■ The Castle (0131-225 1012) is open every day from 9.30am, last entry 5.15pm (4.15pm Oct 1-March 31). Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and January 1 and 2. Adults £5.50, children (5-15) £1.50. Try to time your visit for lunchtime to catch the firing of the One O'Clock Gun (every day except Sunday) from Mills Mount Battery — not for those of a nervous disposition.
■ The Witchery Tour takes place every evening (0131-225 6745, advance booking essential). It costs £5, lasts an hour and a quarter and meets outside The Witchery.
■ Camera Obscura (0131-226 3709), open every day except December 25, 9.30am-6pm April-October, 10am-5pm November-March. Last admission is 45 minutes before closing. Presentations take place at the top of the tower usually on the hour and every 15 minutes thereafter. Adults £3.40, children £1.75.
■ See also City Breaks box, right.

dark alleys and down steep steps, pausing to point out the site of a hanging or the body-snatching activities of Burke and Hare. His partner in crime was an out-of-work actor who popped up in a variety of thin disguises — peg-leg pirate, fishwife with bucket of slops, mad Scoubie-Doo-soundalike monk — at strategic points to scare us to death, or not. One Canadian couple obligingly screamed every time, and were rendered helpless with mirth by Adam's little jokes, which tells us something about Canadian entertainment.

Next day we took an open-topped bus tour of the city, with plenty of opportunity for jumping off and on again at the main tourist sites such as the castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Scott Monument, Greyfriars Bobby and St Giles's Cathedral in the High Street, whose otherwise undistinguished interior conceals in its furthest corner an absolute gem in the tiny Thistle Chapel, home to the 16 knights of the Order of the Thistle.

Eating and drinking pose no problems for visitors. The Royal Mile and streets off it seem to have as many pubs as cashmere and tartan shops, and the usual fast-food suspects are everywhere. Pizza seems to be an Edinburgh favourite — we counted at least four branches of Pizzaland — but since my daughter had a brief and undistinguished career as a Saturday waitress in our local branch in Kent, this was too much like home. Nor did we feel tempted by Prince Charlie's Scottish Extravaganza, "a memorable four-course banquet with singing, piping, dancing and music."

So we took pot-luck for dinner at two places featured on the tourist board's excellent city map, and were 50 per cent successful — Lucknam's in a basement on the Royal Mile had poor service and a faint smell of disinfectant, but The Witchery on



Taking the high road: Princes Street, which every traveller to Edinburgh will visit

Castlehill was a real treat, with delicious food in eccentric surroundings that brought Miss Havisham to mind — the candelabra alone was worth the visit. The prices are definitely not in the undergraduate bracket, so I trust the daughter made the most of every mouthful.

SALLY BAKER

The author was a guest of Highlife Breaks.

CITY BREAKS

Edinburgh
■ Air UK (01345 666777) has flights from Stansted and London City to Edinburgh for £58 return with discounts at Skakis and Hilton hotels.
■ GoldenRail (01904 638973) offers a return trip from King's Cross to Edinburgh, with B&B at the Sheraton Grand for £132.
■ Channings Hotel, Edinburgh, charges £112.50 a person for three nights' weekend B&B. Details from Rainbow Holidays (01904 643355).
■ Friday and Saturday night at the Chalmers Hotel, Edinburgh, (0131-229 2086) with an evening at the theatre costs from £69 per person.
Bath
■ The Royal Hotel offers three nights with dinner, B&B for £92.50 per person from Friday night until Monday morning through Rainbow Holidays (01904 643355).
■ Somerset House (01225 466451) is staging a Georgian weekend from November 1 to 3 for £126.50 per person, including a guided tour.
■ The Royal Crescent Hotel (01225 739955) offers a dinner, bed and breakfast weekend rate of £230 for a couple sharing a standard twin or double room.
Lincoln
■ Guests can stay at Courtyard by Marriott (01522 544244) for £24 a night on Friday, Saturday and Sundays evenings from November 1.

Where even the Imp finds sanctuary

During a brief stop-over in an August heatwave the exotic Romanesque-Gothic cathedral in Lincoln — possibly the most precious piece of architecture in Britain, John Ruskin declared — had proved a cool and heavenly sanctuary but left us with little time to explore the rest of this 2,000-year-old city.

Going back is a dangerous thing to do, but we were not disappointed. Lincoln makes a cosy, compact haven for a winter weekend. We holed up in the Castle Hotel at the top of the town and found we were within walking distance of everything we wanted to see.

On our first visit we had stayed in the Bishop's Old Palace, part of which, Edward King House, is a retreat centre where visitors can sign in for B&B, vacancies permitting. It seems to be a well-kept secret as when we stayed there, guests were only two other guests. Accommodation is basic but clean and peaceful.

Lincoln is really a town in one, linked by the Steep Hill a zig-zagged and steep



Steep Hill, Lincoln's winding and cobbled Roman road

bled Roman route from the River Witham, with its shopping centre and the University of Humber's complex up to the more tourist-conscious peak where sits an array of architectural delights, especially around the square called Castle Hill.

It is hard to fault Lincoln as a venue for a short break but eating out in the evening proved to be problematical: few restaurants stay open past 9pm. One evening, after a concert, the excellent and busy Tequila's (Mexican)

came to the rescue. The city abounds in tea shops, however. My favourite was Pimento, a courtyard café tucked behind a boutique and a speciality tea shop on Steep Hill.

It was time for some serious sightseeing in the company of Herbert Sharman, a Lincoln born-and-bred city guide. "People think they can do Lincoln in a day before moving on to York or Durham, so we don't get many staying here," he complained, more out of

frustration than bitterness. As chairman of the Civic Trust he knows better than anyone what casual visitors are missing.

Mr Sharman walked us along the castle walls (Lincoln Castle is home to one of our four surviving Magna Carta's) and enlarged our knowledge of the cathedral, where 20p in the slot shines a light on the notorious Imp, perched high in the Angel Choir, and children can go "on safari" seeking animals hiding in the wealth of

carvings. Down by the river he pointed out the Glory Hole — the only surviving medieval bridge in England. The city museum is being relocated and will not reopen until next year, but Mr Sharman pointed us towards the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, full of surprises. Also worth a visit are the Usher Gallery (Peter de Wint watercolours and a Tennyson room) and the Lawn, a former asylum which houses the National Cycle Museum, an Archaeology Centre, and the St Joseph Banks Conservatory. And I defy anyone to "just pop in" to the Incredibly Fantastic Old Toy Show or Reader's Rest, the county's largest second-hand bookshop with a stock of 60,000 volumes.

Having seen Lincoln in extremes of weather, I have to admit one preference for summer. Just before sunset, you can watch "warm" gales from the cathedral's stained glass being thrown on to the exquisitely carved St Hugh's Choir. It is a divine experience.

JENNY MCCLEAN

LINCOLN FILE

■ Tourist Information (01522 528628)
■ The Castle Hotel, Westgate (01522 538801), B&B £32.50 per person. Heritage Breaks for £41 per person per night, includes dinner, B&B and extras.
■ Edward King House at The Bishop's Old Palace (01522 528778), B&B £20.
■ See box, above right.

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THE ONAR VILLAGE

With hand on heart, there are few places left in the Mediterranean which we can truly describe as "untouched". Northern Cyprus certainly falls into this category. Although there has been some hotel development in the past couple of years, the country still possesses a wonderfully tranquil and peaceful atmosphere, such as could be found on most Mediterranean islands some forty years ago.

In addition to its great natural beauty Northern Cyprus is steeped in history. Each period has left its mark, evident in the Greek and Roman sites, the monasteries, and the Byzantine churches. Perhaps best known of all, the Crusader Castles which perch high on mountain ledges.

Our week long visits to Northern Cyprus have been arranged during the Winter, when the weather is ideal for touring and exploring. The months of November and March offer particularly fine weather and day time temperatures are often in the low-seventies. The mid-winter months are cooler, but even in January it is surprisingly mild with temperatures often reaching the low and mid-sixties.

Such weather is glorious for visiting the ancient sites. Salamis, a one time capital, is especially worthwhile as is the old walled city of Famagusta, the 5th century BC palace of Vouni, and the ruins of Soli, a Hellenistic and Roman city. Drive up into the mountains to see the fairy-tale Kantara Castle. It was mentioned at the time of Richard Coeur de Lion's short stay on the way to the Crusades in 1191.

Our base for the week long stay will be the Onar Village, which sits high on a hill overlooking Kyrenia. Here you have the choice of staying in a hotel room which offers a private balcony or in one of the cottages which are scattered around the gardens. The cottages are large and consist of a bedroom, sitting room/dining room, bathroom, kitchen area and large patio. They are ideal for parties of 3 or 4 who wish to be accommodated together, but are also available for two people sharing.

1996/1997 DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON
Departures weekly from 2 November 1996 to 22 March 1997. Prices from £295 per person in twin bedded room. Single room from £364. Prices subject to surcharge.
Price includes: Economy class air travel, 7 nights at the Onar Village on half board basis, transfers airport/hotel/airport, UK departure tax, services of local representative.
Not included: Travel insurance, airport tax £5.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Please telephone 0171-409 0376 (7 days a week during office hours)

NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED

11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1A 1BE
TELEPHONE 0171 409 0376. FACSIMILE 0171 409 0854
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Steps to put the family in order

Only one in three adults has made a proper will — the remaining population leave families a legal and financial dilemma when they die. Make a Will Week (October 14-20), organised by the Law Society, aims to raise awareness of the importance of preparing a will and updating it regularly. Solicitors in England and Wales will offer their services, with many providing special rates.

□ The Association of Solicitor Investment Managers (ASIM) emphasises the need to seek a solicitor's advice to avoid the problems if you die intestate. Free directory of ASIM member firms from 01892 870065.

□ According to NatWest Investments, 2.5 million households could be in real danger of having their estate divided against their wishes in the absence of a will. Call 0800 722 733 for a copy of NatWest's updated guide and video, *How to Make a Will*.

□ Scottish Widows has produced the latest in a series of financial files, *The Will File*, which provides a useful checklist to drawing up a will, revoking or making changes to it. Call 0345 678910.

By making a will, you can contribute to charities. The British Red Cross has published a booklet, *Most precious gift of all — a guide to wills and legacies*. From: British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ.

□ Homeowners can make large savings on their household insurance and help a leading childcare charity thanks to a new scheme. The Children's Society Insurance Policy offers special rates and discounts for security devices. Quote Line: 0345 413171.

□ If you are unsure about buying or selling a house, Barclays Mortgages has produced two free video guides for first-time buyers and home movers. Tips include how much to offer and the best time to sell. Call 0800 400121.

□ What are Peps, who can invest in them and how I can convert my existing investments into a Pep are some of the questions answered in a new 20-page booklet, *Plain Language Guide to Peps*. Price £2.40 per copy from FEPMA, Prepress, SWB 30086, Exeter EX1 1AZ.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at October 10, 1993

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	4.90
10,000	AIG Life	5.00
20,000	AIG Life	5.15
50,000	AIG Life	5.25
2 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.55
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.70
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.90
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.10
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.20
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.35
5 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.45
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.55

Source: Chamberlain de Broe 0171-434 4222. Net rates, income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers' BS 01202 987171	Bullion	Instant	£500	4.80 %Y
Alliance & Leicester BS 0645 228858	Instant Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40 %Y
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instant Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.85 %Y
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instant Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.05 %Y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 9584422	Direct Reserve	20 day p	£2,500	6.10 %Y
Nottingham BS 0115 9584422	Direct Reserve	20 day p	£25,000	6.40 %Y
Greenwich BS 0181 858 8212	One Yr Term Shr	1 year	£2,500	6.50 %Y
Yorkshire BS 0800 378838	Fixed Rate	31.03.98	£25,000	8.60 F/YM

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45 %Y
Sun Bank Corp 01438 744505	Fixed rate	5 year	£1,000	7.00 %Y
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720271	Fixed rate	5 year	£500	6.80 %Y
Principality BS 01222 344188	Fixed rate	5 year	£500	6.80 %Y

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	0.64%NC	7.90%NC	N/A
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	0.50%NC	11.20%NC	N/A
RB of Scotland 01702 349393	0.53%NC	12.90%NC	N/A

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs no insurance
Direct Line 0141 248 9966	13.90%NC	£112.88	£101.33
Alliance & Leicester 0116 2626262	14.80%NC	£114.33	£102.38
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%NC	£115.82	£102.48

No. C = no interest free period. E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years. F = Fixed Rate (at other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

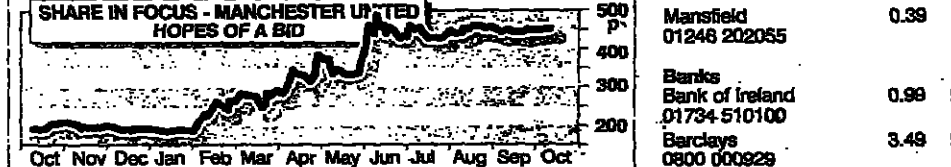
Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 800 677)

PIBS

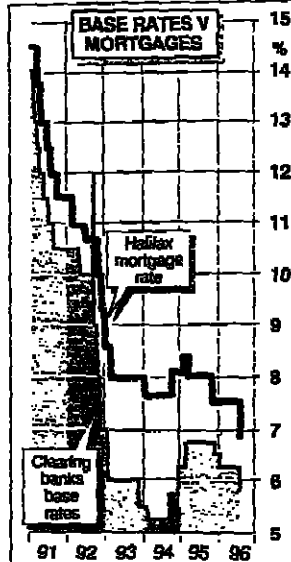
Fixed rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	104.19	9.888	100.17	1,000	
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	126.07	100.17	100.13	1,000	
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	142.06	9.151	100.20	10,000	
Bristol & West 13.375%	146.66	9.120	100.34	1,000	
Britannia 12.000%	141.44	9.191	100.42	1,000	
Coventry 12.125%	133.51	9.054	100.75	1,000	
First National 11.750%	124.70	9.422	100.25	10,000	
Halifax 8.750%	98.70	9.865	100.82	50,000	
Halifax 12.000%	131.59	9.854	100.28	50,000	
Halifax 13.000%	132.05	9.854	100.28	50,000	
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	147.54	9.055	100.23	1,000	
Newcastle 10.750%	122.21	9.776	100.32	1,000	
Newcastle 12.625%	143.02	8.827	100.45	1,000	
Northern Rock 12.625%	143.44	8.802	100.14	1,000	
Stapton 12.875%	142.07	9.063	100.48	1,000	

Floating rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Cheshire (28/09-27/03) 8.41563%	107.63	100.00	1,000		
First Nat (20/09-20/03) 8.48750%	101.63	100.00	1,000		

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing Shares. Source: ABI AMRO Home Govest - 0171 601 0101



SHARE IN FOCUS - MANCHESTER UNITED HOPES OF A BID



BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

FTSE 100 PRICE INDEX

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20% 40%	Minimum investment	Notice	Contact	
Ordinary A/c	1.50	1.20	90-10,000**		0645 845000	
Investment A/c	4.75	3.80	2.85	1mth	0645 845000	
Income Bonds*	6.00	4.80	3,600,000-25,000**	1mth	0645 845000	
First Nat Bond	6.00	4.80	3,600,000-25,000**	8day	0645 845000	
43rd Issue Cert	5.35	4.28	100-10,000	1mth	0645 845000	
Children's Bond	6.75	5.32	25-1,000	1mth	0645 845000	
Gen Ext Rate	3.51	2.81	100-250,000	8day	0645 845000	
Capital Bonds	6.25	5.32	100-250,000	8day	0645 845000	
9th Index Linkwts	2.50	2.00	500-50,000	60day	0645 845000	
Pension Bonds	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 845000

* First £70 (£140 if at tax rate 40%) of net income, plus 20% for 10% - Additional income up to £20,000 for investment proceeds. ** Net income for £20,000 - £100,000 p.a. in addition to £1 and £2 holdings. * Taxable but paid in full. ** £200-100,000 ann higher rates. ** Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	£10,022	£11,192	£12,778
Equitable Life	£10,277	£11,187	£12,381
General Accident	£10,027	£11,103	£12,589
General	£10,061	£11,155	£12,438
Sun Lf of Canada	£10,030	£11,068	£12,481

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential	£9,317	£10,068	£11,155
General Accident	£9,278	£10,053	£11,158
Sun Lf of Can	£9,296	£10,028	£11,113
Equitable Life	£9,350	£10,027	£10,975
General	£9,172	£10,019	£11,193

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equitable Life	£9,046	£9,563	£10,276
General Accident	£9,816	£9,544	£10,458
Sun Lf of Can	£9,824	£9,562	£10,304
General	£9,886	£9,474	£10,301
Prudential	£9,853	£9,473	£10,329

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 8383)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West	0.95	£15k+	95	6.04% disc 6 mth then 1% disc-6mth
0800 608088				3.25% disc for 12 mth
Lambeth	3.74	£15k+	95	2.50% discount for 12 months
0171 928 1331				
Newbury	4.24	£15-150k	95	2.50% discount for 12 months
01635 43676				
Banks				
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	8.25% disc 6 mth
01734 510100				3% disc 6 mth
TSB Bank	3.25	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months
0500 758000				

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Bay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Bay's Guides, 01753 880482.

THE TIMES

THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETIES

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Offer	Why	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Why	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Why	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Why	Ytd
AEON LIFE ASSURANCE	100.00	1.00	1.00	AEON LIFE ASSURANCE	100.00	1.00	1.00	AEON LIFE ASSURANCE	100.00	1.00	1.00	AEON LIFE ASSURANCE	100.00	1.00	1.00
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Firm end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

UTILITIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

ENGINEERING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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100	95	100	95	0	0	0

ENGINEERING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
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INSURANCE

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100	95	100	95	0	0	0

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100	95	100	95	0	0	0

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

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PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

SUPPORT SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

TEXTILES & APPAREL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

RETAILERS, FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100	95	100	95	0	0	0

OTHER FINANCIAL

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100	95	100	95	0	0	0

RETAILERS, GENERAL

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100	95	100	95	0	0	0

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100	95	100	95	0	0	0

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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

GOVERNMENT
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

CYCLING

Swiss set sights on second world title

By PETER BRYAN

THE decision to hold the world road racing championships in October, at the end of a season that started in early February, has yet to be fully welcomed by the combatants, especially in an Olympic year, but when the week-long series ends in Lugano tomorrow, hundreds of thousands of spectators are expected to line the 16.8-kilometre circuit for the elite (previously known as the professional) title race in the Swiss Alps.

The absence of cycling's biggest name, Miguel Indurain, who seems close to a final decision to retire, and the Olympic champion, Pascal Richard, will not detract from the importance and interest of the 252-kilometre championship.

Switzerland have high hopes, after Alex Zülle's wins in both the Tour de Spain and Thursday's world time-trial championship, together with Tony Rominger's third place in the Spanish tour and bronze medal in this week's time-trial, but most eyes will be on Italy's 12-strong squad, which is likely to provide its first champion since Gianni Bugno won his second world title in 1992. Bugno, nearing the end of his career, will work hard, if necessary, for his colleagues, especially Andrea Ferrigato and Roberto Pistore. The course favours specialist climbers and, on present form, Laurent Jalabert and Richard Virenque, of France, cannot be discounted. Max Sciandri, the Olympic bronze medal-winner on a similar course in Atlanta, has a dedicated British team supporting him, led by Sean Yates, his Motorola colleague and former wearer of the yellow jersey in the Tour de France, who is competing in his last big international event.

Century from Mongia puts India in command

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NAYAN MONGIA became the first India wicketkeeper in 12 years to score a Test century as his team established a strong position at the end of the second day of the one-off Test match in Delhi yesterday.

Mongia, 27, scored a career-best 137 not out as India reached 319 for six by the close of the second day's play, giving them a first-runings lead of 137. Australia, bowled out for 182 on the opening day, face a massive task as the wicket continues to deteriorate.

Mongia, drafted in to open the innings in the absence of Navjot Singh, who is serving a 50-day ban for walking out of the recent tour of England, put on 131 for the second wicket with Saurav Ganguly, who made 66. India looked poised to put themselves in an

unassailable position when they reached 144 for one soon after lunch.

However, Australia fought back in the afternoon, removing Ganguly. Sachin Tendulkar, the captain, who made only ten, and Mohammad Azharuddin, his predecessor, his 55 runs added to their total.

Rahul Dravid then contributed a rapid 40 in a 61-run stand for the fifth wicket with Mongia. Mongia's vigil on the way to his maiden Test century has so far lasted six hours and 26 minutes, during which he hit 17 boundaries.

Syed Kirmani was the last India wicketkeeper to score a Test century when he made 102 against England, led by David Gower, in 1984.

"I have confidence in my batting abilities, it was only a matter of time before the century came," Mongia, whose previous best score was 80 against the West Indies at Bombay two years ago, said. "I was timing the ball so well, I just wanted to keep going."

Mongia was not concerned that the selectors could drop him down the order when Sidhu returns for the forthcoming series against South Africa. "I'll be happy to bat anywhere," the wicketkeeper, who is playing his fourteenth Test, said. "The important thing is to do well for India."

Mongia spent 45 minutes in the 90s before reaching the three-figure mark soon after tea. Australia were left to rue a missed stumping by Ian Healy off Peter McIntyre before Ganguly had added to his



Ganguly takes evasive action as a short-pitched ball goes down the leg side

overnight score of 19. Ganguly moved to 66, but missed equalling Azharuddin's feat of three centuries in his first three Test matches when he top-edged a pull off Brad Hogg to Mark Waugh at slip.

Ganguly, who made 131 on his debut at Lord's in June and followed that with 136 at Trent Bridge, hit ten fours and a six.

Two overs after his departure Tendulkar lazily cut McIntyre, the leg spinner, to give Waugh a second slip catch. Glenn McGrath then removed Azharuddin's off stump with a ball that kept low to reduce India to 199 for four.

India supporters sent their best wishes to Shane Warne, the Australia leg spinner who

has missed the tour to recover from surgery, with a poster at the ground that read: "Shane Warne, we miss you. Love India."

Ed Giddins, the former Sussex fast bowler, will have his appeal against a 20-month ban for using cocaine heard by the Test and County Cricket Board's appeal committee on November 9.

HOCKEY: LEADING CLUBS FACE WEEKEND OF HECTIC COMPETITION IN NATIONAL LEAGUES

East Grinstead hit the road

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

IT PROMISES to be a busy weekend for East Grinstead, a weekend spent twixt hotel room and hockey pitch, living out of a suitcase in pursuit of points in the premier division of the National League. It fact, it promises to be a busy weekend for all 12 teams in the division as they play on Saturday and Sunday, but East Grinstead are the only side with two away matches, at Cannock on Saturday before moving on to London to play Teddington at Chiswick.

As the distance between East Grinstead, in East Sussex, and Cannock, in the Midlands, is more than 150 miles, the overnight hotel expenses of the visitors will be paid by the league management. However, in order to keep the players together, East Grinstead will spend tonight at Hemel Hempstead on the way to London and will have to pay their own hotel expenses, which will amount to about £400.

"You win some, you lose

some," was the reaction of Brian Poole, East Grinstead's liaison officer, who announced no changes in the side that beat Surbiton 5-0 last week. The focus of attention will again be Bhatti, who scored three goals in that match.

Cannock, the leaders and title-holders, have also announced an unchanged side, but are concerned about Chris Mayer, who suffered a head injury during training on Tuesday and spent the night in hospital. It is doubtful whether he will play on both days. After the game against East Grinstead, Cannock will travel to Canterbury and stay the night at Maidstone, where their hotel expenses will also be paid. They will still have to spend about £200 on transport.

Canterbury are still awaiting the return of four Wales players who have been involved in the World Cup qualifying tournament in Italy. Although they must have a reasonable chance of beating Guildford today, their task against Cannock tomorrow looks formidable.

Beeston should have little difficulty holding their position as first division leaders when they visit Leamington tomorrow. First-round matches in the Hockey Association Cup are also scheduled to be played tomorrow, but Southampton and Old Kingstonians have withdrawn, allowing Hampstead and Winchester walkover victories.

Wallace swaps the sun for Slough

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

EACH October, Ashleigh Wallace puts on her trainers and heads for the beach at Camps Bay in Cape Town. After an easy run, she might indulge in a game of beach volleyball or start work on her tan for the summer.

Not this year. As the first Springbok to play in the women's National League premier division, Wallace is coming to terms with the serious business of training with Slough as they prepare to capture a fifth league championship.

Wallace, 31, earned 18 caps as a midfield player for the Springboks, but, after losing her place last year, she moved to England and joined the club she knew would give her the opportunity to play good, hard, competitive hockey.

Nobody would argue with her choice. As well as playing alongside such illustrious players as Karen Brown and Sarah Kelleher, the Ireland international, Wallace is also relishing the prospect of European competition. "It's been great so far," she said. "I've had a lot of support and it's been a pleasure training with a squad who are so professional and mentally strong. What I really admire is how hard they work at practices—in Cape Town, we have the luxury of two water-based artificial surfaces to train on and I realise just how

we waste our time and mess around at training. Slough have 1½ hours a week on a sand-filled pitch."

Slough's unbeaten run has given them a three-point cushion at the top of the table, ahead of the Bristol team. Clifton, who they face tomorrow, Wallace knows that the clash will be a stern test, but she is looking forward to it, as she is taking on the holders, Hightown and Ipswich.

She said: "I've heard so much about them and that's why I'm here. There's never an easy game, they're all so tight. I'd say that the top clubs in South Africa would hold their own, but the weaker ones wouldn't stand a chance. One thing I have noticed is how technical all the players are. At home, we tend to just get on with it and go out and play."

There are, of course, a few drawbacks, such as the weather. "I know there's a lot worse to come. I can't imagine what it must be like when there's snow and ice around." And the travelling: "That's been the biggest shock to my system. We travelled to Doncaster last week—we think a 20-minute trip is ridiculous in Cape Town. Still, making sure of a regular place in the starting line-up and winning the title will make it all worthwhile."

DRUGS IN SPORT

IOC agrees to bring in new tests

By JOHN GOODBODY

OLYMPIC officials plan to introduce a test next month to detect erythropoietin (EPO), the drug that can aid competitors in endurance events and is suspected of having caused several deaths in cycling. EPO, which increases the number of oxygen-carrying red blood cells, has already been banned by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Prince Alexandre de Merode, the president of the IOC Medical Commission, said after a meeting of the executive board in Lausanne yesterday: "We still have to look into the legal aspects of the test, as we always do, but that should be a formality."

Much of the work on identifying the artificial use of EPO has been carried out at the University of Quebec in Canada. It is used clinically to treat kidney diseases. Up to 18 cyclists, many of them based in Belgium and Holland, are reported to have died having used the drug in the 1980s. When used in large doses, experts say it can damage the circulatory system, possibly leading to a heart attack. EPO is one of the two biggest drugs problems that the IOC has to face. The other is the use of human growth hormone, which is so far undetectable.

Company just says no to Dole's slogan over drugs

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

Sport is increasingly controlled by commerce, and much of what happens in modern sport comes down to the question of selling plimsolls. Selling involves not the plimsoll itself, but the name stuck on it: thus a company such as, say, Nike, seeks to be tough and ultra-groovy, but also groovily caring and toughly responsible. Thus part of the company's self-promotion is involvement in the anti-drugs campaign, under its own slogan: "Just do it (say no!)"

Politicians are, of course, equally keen to be seen on the side of the angels, and Bob Dole, the American presidential candidate, spelt out his own anti-drug message: "Just don't do it."

Nike did not cheer him for his support. They spoke out against him. Their PR man, Jim Small, said: "While we support the senator's goal of keeping kids away from drugs, our slogan is based in sports and we would have preferred him to use a slogan that is more relevant to this issue." Quite right, too. They've got plimsolls to sell. Priorities are, after all, priorities.

Claret and blues

I hear of a French rock group, good enough to have played support to such luminaries as Deep Purple and Z.Z. Top, that calls itself Aston Villa. They were, apparently, inspired by the club's relegation struggles of a couple of seasons back.

Redruth College have been unable to fulfil their rugby fixture in the Daily Mail Schools Cup. Their rugby posts have been stolen—twice.

Official excuses

The Estonia football team's failure to get to their match against Scotland needs to be set in a larger context. It is clearly something going around. Dave Cornely, a Hampshire referee, missed the Clubmaster Hampshire League second division battle between Mayflower and Tadley by going to the wrong ground. Mike Barnard writes to send me this gem from The News in Portsmouth. A league spokesman explained: "It seems his wife had gone off shopping with the car and the match details were left inside."

Meanwhile, Romario arrived an hour and a quarter late for training at Valencia on Thursday, explaining cheerfully that he had overslept. He has already been in trouble for training insufficiently hard, and has responded with the modest claim that, at 30, he is too old to train like the other players.

And, meanwhile again, Sam Torrance, the golfer, was disqualified from the Oki Pro-Am in Madrid when he failed to turn up on time. He, too, overslept. Spanish beds seem to have an awful lot going for them.

Sign—Somewhere out there is the England cricket team



Nun too pleased

Faithful readers will recall the footballing nun, Sister Pierangela inspired the people of Montaleno, in Italy, by playing football and "dancing like a cowboy". She was therefore removed to Carpi by the Oblate Order of the Virgin Mary of Fatima. Now, alas, she has gone home to the US, from whence she came as Connie Marie Dodge.

She told her friends in Montaleno that this is "for reasons more serious and more grave than can be made public". The story inspired the national press, and the order received a visit from a reporter and photographer. Priests, displeased, closed the gates—with the press inside. Eventually, they were rescued by the carabinieri. But alas, poor Sister Pierangela. It is a sad day for footballing nuns everywhere.

Novel approach

Ian Botham, whose similarity to Proust has often been remarked upon, is, as you probably know, a novelist. His latest oeuvre, completed with some help from Dennis Coath, is about Coath tells me, "sex and drugs and rock and roll in cricket". The book, punningly entitled *Deep Cover*, has a cartoon cover with an uncovered lady prominent thereon. Coath says that book-sellers are under the strange impression that the novel, despite for more likely because of the naked lady, is about cricket coaching. He has seen it displayed alongside such titles as *Sporting Injuries for Beginners*, *Fencing to Win* and *J. R. Hartley's Guide to Flyfishing*. Has Coath overlooked the possibility that these might also be raunchy novels? They certainly sound that way to me.

Mapped out

You will, I am sure, be pleased to know that the England cricket squad will go to Portugal for a week in November, for "warm-weather training" before their tour of the handily adjacent countries of Zimbabwe and New Zealand. I am intrigued to learn that the programme includes participation in orienteering. The usual suggestions that "English cricket has lost its way" can now be sternly refuted.

Poet's corner

Finally, a spot of poetry from Roger McGough, the only professional poet ever to have beaten this column at ping-pong. Here is something from his latest, *Sporting Relations* (Viking, £10.00).

Cousin Daisy's favourite sport was standing on street corners. She contracted with ease a funny disease. Notwithstanding.

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BASEBALL Orioles switch on the power to level series

ONE day after having victory literally snatched away from them by a 12-year-old New York Yankees fan, the Baltimore Orioles struck back on Thursday, beating the Yankees 5-3 to level the best-of-seven American League Championship Series at 1-1 (Keith Blackmore writes).

The Orioles have lodged an official protest about the opening game of the series, in which Jeff Mauer reached out from the stand and caught a ball before it could drop into the hands of a Baltimore fielder, turning a routine out into a crucial home run for New York. Their chances of a reversal seem slight but they might not need it.

The Orioles' primary weap-

on is their power hitting and they used its full force at Yankee Stadium, Todd Zeile and Rafael Palmeiro striking two-run homers. "That's the way we are," their manager, Davey Johnson, said. "If you make a mistake, we'll hit it out."

It was a mistake of the tactical variety that helped the St. Louis Cardinals to their surprising victory, 8-3, over the Atlanta Braves, levelling the National League Championship Series at 1-1.

The Braves manager, Bobby Cox, deliberately loaded the bases to allow Greg Maddux to pitch to Gary Gaetti, an apparently out-of-form hitter. Gaetti hit his second pitch for a grand slam home run.

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf days for the 1997 Challenge. Top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for next year's final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
13 OCT	ERNST & YOUNG	GLENGORSE	28
16 OCT	THE MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS	SUNNINGDALE	48
18 OCT	EBB	KINGSWOOD	45

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SEE RORY ON A STICKY WICKET.

Don't miss David Gower knocking Rory McGrath for six tonight.

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GOLF: RANK OUTSIDERS FORCE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS TO LOSE THEIR GRIP ON DUNHILL CUP

Scotland's wounds reopened by India

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SOMETIMES, there is no helping Scotland when it comes to sport. The nation that sends out its sportsmen with their heads filled with choruses of *Flower of Scotland* sometimes has to welcome them back after they have brought little credit to the nation.

No one needs reminding of the day when Paraguay beat Scotland in the Dunhill Cup three years ago and it will be a long time before it is forgotten how, as defending champions, the Scots were humbled 2-1 by India at St Andrews in the same competition yesterday. After a defeat by Sweden on Thursday, Scotland are out of the twelfth Dunhill Cup.

It was a victory by rank outsiders. Whereas Montgomerie and Andrew Coltart were in the leading 70 players in the world, Jeev Singh and Gaurav Ghei are jointly 696th while Ali Sher, the third Indian, is unranked.

TODAY'S DRAW

GROUP ONE: United States v Spain (10.01)
GROUP TWO: Zimbabwe v Scotland (11.01)
GROUP THREE: Canada v Wales (9.01)
GROUP FOUR: Australia v New Zealand (12.01)
GROUP FIVE: Japan v Germany (12.30)

Singh had to go to the extra hole before he beat Andrew Coltart, the Scot taking three putts from 35 feet. Montgomerie, ranked No 2 in the world, contributed to his own defeat. He three-putted four times and it took a birdie three on the last hole for him to break 80. Gaurav Ghei birdied the opening hole and, from that moment on, Montgomerie was up against it.

His troubles increased on the 6th, where his ball hit a rake lying outside a bunker and was deflected into the sand into a position from where he took two strokes to get out. Then the Scot three-putted the 7th. "Rakes should be in the hazard," Montgomerie said. "There are a lot of bunkers on this course and therefore a lot of rakes outside them."

Yesterday, the Old Course bared its venerable teeth. A gusting wind blew from the west and, as the skies darkened, rain showers threatened all day. Talk of new course records, prevalent when Mark O'Meara stood ten under par on the 17th tee the previous day, was blown across the sands and into the icy, white-



Coltart, of Scotland, who was eventually beaten by Singh, of India, at the extra hole, takes meticulous care over a birdie putt at the 3rd

capped sea of St Andrews Bay. Greg Norman, of Australia, drove out of bounds on the 14th, which he described as an inexplicable lapse of concentration. It was a difficult tee from which to drive, with the wind coming from the right bringing the Beardies bunkers into play. Jonathan Lomas had a nine there, as did Ali Sher. Greg Turner and Phillip Price matched Norman's seven, and Rick Gibson, Mark Moulton and Tony Johnstone had eights.

Norman nevertheless edged home against Sven Struer, of Germany, and Wayne Riley, after driving into the Swilcan Burn, beat Heinz-Peter Thul. A clean sweep was completed when Steve Elkington defeated

Thomas Gogele. The Australians were never in difficulty, which is more than could be said for New Zealand, the other team in their group, who were beaten 2-1 by Japan.

Joe Ozaki equalled the lowest score of the day, a 69, which was too good for Frank Nobilo and, although Grant Waite levelled the score, Kazuhiro Takami became the second member of his team to go round in less than 72, outscoring Greg Turner 70-73.

For a while, unseeded England looked as though they were going to pull off an upset and defeat the United States, the No 1 seeds. Barry Lane, playing the part of team captain to perfection by recording relentless pars, was too good for O'Meara.

Lomas held a four-stroke lead over Steve Stricker on the 12th tee, an advantage that was halved when the American birdied the hole. There was a greater swing on the 14th, where Lomas hit two drives out of bounds. Two ahead on the tee, he was three behind walking off the green.

Phil Mickelson, one of the best putters in the world, was initially off form against Lee Westwood, who led by one stroke after 15 holes. Mickelson's 3-4-3 finish emphasised why he is leading the money-list in the United States and has won four tournaments. Puns of four feet, 12 feet and five feet on the last three greens were enough for him to give the United States a one-stroke victory.

DUNHILL CUP RESULTS AND TABLES

GROUP ONE: United States 2 England 1 (United States names first). M O'Meara 75 lost to B Lane 72; S Stricker 75 bt J Lomas 79; P Mickelson 72 bt L Westwood 73. Spain 2 Italy 1 (Spain names first). M A Jimenez 69 bt S Gimenez 75; I Garmelo 74 bt E Canonica 75; D Borrego 75 lost to C Roca 73.

	P	W	L	Games	Pts
United States	2	2	0	4	2
England	2	1	1	4	1
Spain	2	1	1	2	1
Italy	2	0	2	2	0

GROUP TWO: Zimbabwe 0 Sweden 3 (Zimbabwe names first). A Johnstone 76 lost to P Sigurd 73; N Price 75 lost to J Sandhu 75 at 10th; M McIlroy 73 lost to P Hedderley 72. Scotland 1 India 2 (Scotland names first). A Coltart 74 lost to J Singh 74 at 10th; C Montgomerie 79 lost to G Ghei 78; R Russell 71 bt A Sher 84.

	P	W	L	Games	Pts
Sweden	2	2	0	5	2
India	2	1	1	3	1
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	2	0
Scotland	2	0	2	2	0

GROUP THREE: Ireland 3 Canada 0 (Ireland names first). D Clarke 76 bt G Gibson 80; P Harrington 73 bt R Todd 73 at 10th; P McGinley 71 bt J Rutledge 77. South Africa 2 Wales 1 (South Africa names first). R Gossens 78 lost to P Price 73; E Els 70 bt M Moulton disqualified; W Westner 72 bt P Alcock 76.

	P	W	L	Games	Pts
Ireland	2	2	0	5	2
South Africa	2	2	0	4	2
Wales	2	0	2	2	0
Canada	2	0	2	1	0

GROUP FOUR: New Zealand 1 Japan 2 (New Zealand names first). F Nobilo 73 lost to N Ozaki 68; G Walle 72 bt H Westhild 73; G Turner 70 lost to K Takami 70. Australia 3 Germany 0 (Australia names first). W Riley 74 bt H-P Thul 76; G Gogele 74 bt S Stricker 75; S Elkington 71 bt J Gogele 80.

	P	W	L	Games	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	5	2
Japan	2	1	1	3	1
New Zealand	2	1	1	3	1
Germany	2	0	2	2	0

Rusedski's record runs into trouble

THE 139.8mph service with which Greg Rusedski won his quarter-final match against Jean-Philippe Fleurian, of France, at the Beijing Open on Thursday is likely to remain an unofficial world record because of technical limitations at the event. Officials said the speed could not be confirmed because Information Display Systems, the company that calibrated timekeeping equipment for the ATP Tour, was not at the tournament. "Right now it's an unofficial record," Steve Casey, the ATP Tour director of communications, said. "It's unfortunate."

Rusedski, the British No 2, brushed off that disappointment yesterday, however, by reaching the semi-finals of an ATP Tour tennis event for the fourth time this year with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Gustavo Kuerten, of Brazil, to secure a meeting with Byron Black, the No 4 seed, from Zimbabwe. Rusedski's previous semi-finals this year have been at Sydney in January, Nottingham in June and Singapore last week.

Benn incident inquiry

BOXING: British officials are to interview Nigel Benn, the former World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight champion, over an alleged altercation in a London nightclub. Benn will be asked to appear before the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) to answer questions at its next meeting — just days after his WBO championship rematch with Steve Collins, from Ireland, on November 9 in Manchester. A BBBC statement said: "We have noted recent newspaper reports concerning an alleged incident at a nightclub involving Nigel Benn and as a result the board has decided to inquire further into this matter." A man was said to need 105 facial stitches after the reported incident.

Britons on final lap

TRIATHLON: The International Triathlon Grand Prix (ITGP) reaches its climax this weekend with the final event in Phuket, Thailand. Simon Lessing and Spencer Smith, of Great Britain — who, between them, have won the past five world titles over the Olympic distance — are competing for their share of the \$500,000 (£320,000) prize purse. Neither can top the ITGP rankings for the year, as both have missed races, leaving Brad Beven, of Australia, as the favourite for the overall honours. Ben Bright, who jointly heads the rankings with Beven, is not competing.

Goulding fitness hope

RUGBY LEAGUE: Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, is confident of being fit for the three-match series between Great Britain and New Zealand, which begins next Friday, despite suffering his second injury in a week. Goulding, who played against a Lion Red Cup XIII on Thursday despite an injury to his right foot, limped off late in the match with an inflamed left tendon. He has been told to rest and will miss training tomorrow. His value was shown by match-winning performances in the first two internationals of the tour, in Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

Batten defends title

ROWING: Gwin Batten, the Olympic single sculls finalist, will defend her women's pairs head title from Hammer-smith to Mortlake today with Elise Laverick, who sprang to prominence by winning a sculling bronze for Great Britain in the Nations' Cup in July. Rorie Henderson, the winner of the men's title last year with Peter Haining, his fellow Scot, is eleventh on the starting list in partnership with Niall O'Toole, the Ireland Olympic sculler, although their appearance is doubtful, with O'Toole still in transit and Henderson suffering a head cold.

ICE HOCKEY

Dutch pay price for poor defence

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

WHILE Sheffield Steelers prepared to meet CAI Hielo Jaca, the champions of Spain, in group C of the European Cup in the Sheffield Arena last night, Steaua Bucharest, the champions of Romania, and Tilburg Trappers, their counterparts from Holland, met in the opening game, which the Romanians won, but not as easily as the 5-2 scoreline would indicate.

Both goaltenders made some excellent saves in a scoreless first period, but Phil Eboli finally broke through shortly after the interval to give the Trappers the lead. Inside three minutes, Christian Daia scored the first of two goals to bring the scores level. He was helped by a dreadful clearance by David Bouckaert, which was an unfortunate feature of the Tilburg performance.

In addition, they picked the wrong time to change their lines and seemed to have all their players either skating to or from the bench when Daia accepted a pass from Roberto Cazacu to give Steaua the lead for the first time. Steve Krutze levelled for the Trappers four minutes later, but Steaua regained the lead when Viorel Nicolescu scored from close in while they were on a power play. Ioan Timaru stretched the Steaua lead early in the third period and, although they made most of the running, they had Viorel Radu, their goaltender, to thank for preserving their two-goal advantage when he came out bravely to deny Tiko van Gerwen. Tilburg tried to adopt a more physical style of play, but Steaua would not be intimidated or drawn into any confrontations that might have brought them penalties. With little more than two minutes to go, Doug Mason, the Tilburg coach, removed his goaltender to put an extra forward on the ice, but the move backfired and Nuru Andrei scored into the empty net. Sheffield are due to meet Tilburg tonight and Steaua tomorrow. If, as expected, they win the group, they will travel to Finland for the semi-final stage.

Sorenstam leaves Davies trailing

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANNIKA SORENTAM, of Sweden, had a round of 66, six under par, to take a two-stroke lead after the first day of the inaugural Betsy King Classic women's tournament in Reading, Pennsylvania. Sorenstam, the 1995 LPGA rookie of the year, led Julie Piers, of the United States, by two shots and Cindy Schreyer, also of the United States, and Laura Davies, of Great Britain, by three.

Davies is in the middle of a string of 20 events in 21 weeks. She is second on the LPGA money-list with \$771,628 (about £500,000), trailing Karrie Webb by \$56,275. Davies is also second in Europe, trailing Helen Alfredsson, of Sweden, by \$3,120. Last year, Sorenstam became the first golfer, male or female, to top the money-list on two tours in the same year.

"Next week Davies plays in Sicily. It's a challenge," she said. "It's madness really. I'm in this position as a result of a great year. I'll probably end up with neither money title since I'm going for both."

After two birdies and a

bogey on the front nine, Sorenstam surged home with six birdies and only one bogey on the back nine. She had three consecutive birdie putts from less than six feet. The Swede sank short birdie putts on the 15th and 16th before three-putting from 30ft for a bogey on the 17th. She capped the round by chipping to within five feet and sinking the birdie putt on 18th.

"Today was just my day," Sorenstam said. "I was never in-between clubs all day and I just looked at the ball and it went in. It's nice to get this round in early. I was a little nervous on the tee today because I really wanted to play well," added Sorenstam, who was coming off her worst performance of the year, a tie for thirtieth at the Big Apple Classic.

"I suppose I have been taking things for granted. Maybe I need a little nervousness to get me motivated," she said.

Seven players, including Liselotte Neumann, of Sweden, and Caroline Pierce, from Britain, were on 70.

United Distillers taste success

BY MEL WEBB

AN IMPORTANT team golf competition was held in Scotland yesterday — and so was the Alfred Dunhill Cup. In the one that really mattered, the Scottish regional final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, the prize was taken by a team whose company is devoted to the production of that most Hibernian of beverages, Scotch whisky.

The final was won by four employees of United Distillers and they did it the hard way, battling their way through high winds and bitter cold across the broad and beautiful acres of Dalnabrook to come in with a total of 86 Stableford points, one ahead of McDermott Marine Construction. The British Pacing Group were third on countback from Ross Hall Hospital and BP Oil.

The winning team of Ian Ross, Gary Haggart, Barrie Miller and David Tennant won their place in this, the third in the 12-tournament regional series, by beating all-comers in their company golf day. United Distillers obviously do not believe in making things easy for their players. This year, they staged their company day at Glenaeles

and the winning quartet beat 180 fellow workers from all over central Scotland.

Democracy is quite obviously highly valued at United Distillers. All four work on the production or transport divisions of the company and their team captain is Frank Robson, the director of production, grain distilling.

Ross, a lorry driver, was the solid backbone of the team. A Clackmannanshire county player, he has recently been cut from a handicap of three to two and, on a testing day, the quality of his golf was accurately reflected in his round of



75, three over par. He scored 35 points off his own ball — and the rest all did their stuff, too. Haggart, eight handicap, scored 27. Miller picked up 30 off 12 and Tennant registered 32, a fine haul of 18.



Scott Shaw, of KJF Resourcing Ltd, plays the 7th



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THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL
Highbury is churning out rumours of massive profits with shares allegedly being transferred at up to £22,000 each. David Dein, the vice-chairman, is said to have made anything up to £5 million. Danny Fiszman is now chief shareholder. What Arsenal need is some straightforward PR. This is Arsene Wenger's first match in charge. He has made soothing noises to his present squad and recommended a couple of Frenchmen, who seem unlikely to cut the mustard. BG

ASTON VILLA
Villa Park's rumour factory worked overtime when it became known that Brian Little, the Villa manager, was taking Spanish lessons. Was he being lined up for the top job at Real Madrid? Had Barcelona already fallen out with Bobby Robson? The truth was less dramatic. Little has a holiday home in Majorca and, when he takes a break from the pressures and strains of life, he would like to converse more with the natives. Hence his two-hour tutorials in conversational Spanish. Ofel RK

BLACKBURN ROVERS
The search for a striker continues, but it could soon be ended. Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, confirmed yesterday that talks are progressing with Oliver Bierhoff — the man whose goals won the European championship for Germany — and a conclusion is in sight. "We are still talking to Oliver and his advisers," he said. "I believe he would come here, and I believe Udinese would sell him to us, but only if they can get a replacement. It is the age-old problem." DM

CHELSEA
Rudolf Gullit is not quite ready to play at Leicester and Chelsea's past three matches suggest they badly need his influence. The defence, which no longer looks the bulwark it initially did, will not find it easy to subdue the powerful 18-year-old Hesketh, who can roar down the flank. And it will be interesting to see if Gullit gives a fresh chance to the young midfielder from down the road, Jody Morris. The more he plays, the more confident he will get. BG

COVENTRY CITY
Coventry's lack of goalscoring prowess has been mostly responsible for their parlous predicament near the foot of the Premiership. Three goals in eight matches — they have failed to score in six of them — does not exactly bode well for the arduous months ahead. Perhaps the imminent return of Peter Ndlovu, the Zimbabwe striker, will buck up their ideas up front. Ndlovu has not played this season, after undergoing knee surgery, but should soon be back. Hurry up; times are desperate. RK

DERBY COUNTY
Paul McGrath is in, but Jim Smith, the manager, has denied that Paolo Alves, the Portugal international forward from Sporting Lisbon will be the next arrival at the club. Smith spoke to the player's agent but balked at a likely all-in cost close to £2 million. Derby have scored just once in their past three Premiership games. Smith, though, believes Dean Sturridge and Ashley Ward, recovered after a hernia operation, will come good together, in time. RH

EVERTON
Having ended the search for a win by beating Sheffield Wednesday, Joe Royle, the Everton manager, is hoping that the subsequent two-week gap will not interrupt the start of a run, and he has named an unchanged side for the game against West Ham today. He is still looking to strengthen his squad and next week Robert Tomaszek, Slovan Bratislava's 24-year-old midfielder player, starts a trial period. Tomaszek had previously been on trial with West Ham. PB

LEEDS UNITED
Tomas Brodin may never return, but at least George Graham is getting one or two of his senior players back as he searches for his first Premiership victory against Nottingham Forest. Jan Rush and Mark Hateley are both in the squad and so is Tony Dorigo after an eight-month absence. The signing of Brodin, though, seems to have a less happy ending. "If Leeds won't release me, I will retire from football," he told Peter McCormick, the club solicitor. PB

LEICESTER CITY
Martin O'Neill, the manager, breathed a sigh of relief when Emile Heskey reported back fully fit after his full England Under-21 debut in midweek. Heskey hit a post, won a penalty and generally demonstrated why, at 18, he is among the most exciting young strikers in the country. O'Neill has dismissed reports of a £3 million bid from Liverpool as "utter balderdash", but said: "In a short space of time he has become very important for us." RH

LIVERPOOL
Stan Collymore plays, but will he be playing for a move? It is no secret that there is tension at Anfield over the £5 million forward, and the suggestion is that Roy Evans, the manager, is casting around for a replacement, with Emile Heskey, of Leicester, highly regarded. Much is expected of Collymore with Fowler still injured, but he has a knack of delivering at Old Trafford. He scored a wonderful goal there two seasons ago to end a long Manchester United unbeaten run. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED
With several players away until Thursday, the morning kick-off today presented Alex Ferguson, the manager, with some logistical problems, but he is quite pleased with the early start to allow time to get ready for the Champions' League match in Turkey on Wednesday. "We could have been playing at 4pm on Sunday," he pointed out. "That extra 30 hours is vital when you are preparing for Europe." Philip Neville begins his return this morning, but in the second team. PB

MIDDLESBROUGH
Steve Vickers is regarded as a better defender than Gareth Southgate in some quarters. Vickers has not, however, strengthened his England case with some erratic recent performances, but is expected to return after injury to bolster the Middlesbrough defence at Roker Park on Monday. After seeing his side concede six goals in two games, Bryan Robson may recall Gary Walsh in place of Alan Miller in goal, while Nigel Pearson is fit to resume alongside Vickers. LT

NEWCASTLE UNITED
A far cry from the bad old days of the 1980s at St James' Park this week, with virtually all of the players on international duty. The downside is that Kevin Keegan, the manager, will have to wait until Saturday to find if he has a full squad to choose from. Pavel Srnicek arrived back only last night, and Faustino Asprilla will be driven from Heathrow to Derby today. Keegan's greatest concern is for a player left behind in midweek, David Ginola, whom the French ignored yet again. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST
Nottingham Forest have taken just four points from their last seven matches and Frank Clark, the manager, remains uncertain of his best formation. The arrival of Nicola Jerkan suggested he would convert to 3-5-2, but the Croatia defender has struggled thus far. Colin Cooper's strength in the middle is missed sorely when he moves to the right hand side while the true value of Steve Stone, out for the rest of the season, is becoming clearer by the game. RH

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
Benito Carbone will travel to Selhurst Park, but sadly for Sheffield Wednesday supporters, as a spectator rather than player. The proposed £2.6 million transfer of the midfielder player from Internazionale was not completed in time to allow his debut against Wimbledon — no doubt much to his relief. Wednesday are faced with a serious defensive headache, because of a suspension "Mr Des Walker, but Jon Newsome could return after a long lay-off to plug the gap. DM

SUNDERLAND
Only Liverpool and Manchester United boast better defensive records than Sunderland, who have conceded just six goals in eight Premiership fixtures. Scoring goals is a problem, something exacerbated by the likely absence of the injured Niall Quinn from the match on Monday with Middlesbrough. Craig Russell or David Kelly will deputise. The pursuit of a new striking partner for Quinn and a genuine right winger continues apace for Peter Reid, the manager. LT

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five
1 Liverpool	8	20	+12	WWWWW
2 Newcastle	8	18	+4	WWWWW
3 Arsenal	8	17	+9	DDWWW
4 Manchester Utd	8	16	+12	DWWWW
5 Wimbledon	8	15	+5	WWWWW
6 Chelsea	8	13	+1	DWDL
7 Sheffield Wed	8	13	-2	WLDDL
8 Aston Villa	8	12	+2	WDDDL
9 Middlesbrough	8	11	+1	WWWLL
10 Leicester	8	11	-3	LDLWL
11 Derby	8	10	-2	DWWDL
12 Sunderland	8	9	0	LDLWL
13 Everton	8	9	-2	LLDWW
14 Tottenham	8	8	-2	LLWLL
15 West Ham	8	8	-5	LDLWL
16 Nottingham F	8	7	-5	DDLLD
17 Leeds	8	7	-7	WLULL
18 Southampton	8	5	-2	DLLWL
19 Coventry	8	5	-10	LLWLD
20 Blackburn	8	3	-8	LLDLD

WEST HAM UNITED

Having resolved a long-running contractual dispute with one centre half, Slaven Bilic, Harry Redknapp is furious at reports of a dressing-room altercation involving another. Marc Reeper, after the defeat away to Liverpool, "They are an absolute disgrace," the West Ham manager said. "There was no row. Reeper is 6ft 3in and 15 stone of solid muscle, like Superman. Who is going to argue with him?" Everton will not be picking a fight with Reeper today — the Dane is suspended. KP

Reports: Brian Glenville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock, Statistician: Julien Desbrough

WIMBLEDON

After a pointless August, and a clean sweep of five successive Premiership victories in September, for which Joe Kinnear has received the manager-of-the-month award, what price a run of draws in October? The good start to the season has prompted some contract renegotiations for the players who have put Wimbledon in sixth place, especially those who have come through the youth ranks. Neal Ardley has signed a new deal, as have Andy Clarke and Efan Ekoku. NS

BLACKBURN ROVERS v ARSENAL
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 1-1, 3-1, 1-1
HOW THEY LINE UP
BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T. Flowers, G. Croft, N. Markler, T. Sherwood, L. Bohnen, G. Doris, J. Wilcox, C. Sutton, K. Gallacher, J. Kenna, H. Berg, I. Pearce, G. Filicoff, S. Ripley, N. Gudmundsson, S. Giver, W. McKinley, G. Fenton, M. Bloomer, D. Oult, J. Beattie.
ARSENAL (from): D. Seaman, L. Dixon, M. Keown, A. Adams, S. Bould, N. Winterburn, D. Platt, P. Marson, P. Vieira, R. Parfouir, I. Wright, J. Hartson, G. Helder, P. Shaw, M. Rose, A. Lingham, J. Lukic.

DERBY COUNTY v NEWCASTLE UNITED
TICKETS: Sold out
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 2-0, 1-1, 4-1, 1-2, 1-1
HOW THEY LINE UP
DERBY COUNTY (from): R. Hutt, G. Rowett, C. Powell, D. Powell, I. Simec, P. McGrath, I. Laursen, C. Dally, D. Sturridge, A. Ward, A. Asanovic, M. Gabbedini, P. Simpson, M. Carbone, L. Carley, J. Quay.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P. Srnicek, W. Barton, J. Beresford, D. Batty, D. Peacock, R. Lee, P. Beardsley, A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand, R. Elliott, D. Ginola, S. Hishop, K. Gillespie, S. Watson, L. Clark, P. Albert, P. Kilsen.

EVERTON v WEST HAM UNITED
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, 3-1, 3-1, 1-1, 4-0, 0-1, 1-0, 3-0
HOW THEY LINE UP
EVERTON (from): N. Southall, M. Hoggie, E. Barnett, D. Unsworth, C. Short, A. Hindcliffe, J. Eborall, J. Parkinson, A. Umpass, A. Kanchelskii, A. Grant, M. Branch, G. Stuart, G. Speed, P. Gerrard, M. Jackson.
WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Mikosko, T. Brackler, K. Rowland, S. Bilic, J. Dicks, F. Lampard, I. Davies, S. Jones, M. Hughes, S. Randall, S. Mautone, M. Bowen, F. Raduciotu, I. Dumitrescu, S. Potts, J. Moncur, A. Collee, I. Bishop, H. Portino.

LEEDS UNITED v NOTTINGHAM FOREST
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-0, 1-1, 1-1, 1-0, 1-4, 1-0, 1-3
HOW THEY LINE UP
LEEDS UNITED (from): N. Marlyn, G. Kelly, D. Wetherall, R. Johnson, I. Harte, A. Doran, R. Wallace, A. Cozens, M. Ford, L. Sharpe, M. Haleley, I. Rush, A. Gray, M. Jackson, H. Kewell, L. Radabe, P. Bessley, W. Boyle, M. Tinker, J. Blunt, M. Beane.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M. Crossley, A. Fettes, D. Lytle, S. Pearce, C. Cooper, S. Chettle, N. Jerkan, S. Balthewick, D. Phillips, A. Hasland, C. Bart-Williams, S. Gennill, I. Woan, C. Allen, D. Saunders, B. Roy, J. Lee.

LEICESTER CITY v CHELSEA
TICKETS: Sold out
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 2-0, 2-0, 1-1, 1-1
HOW THEY LINE UP
LEICESTER CITY (from): K. Keller, S. Grayson, M. Whitlow, J. Watts, S. Pitor, S. Walsh, N. Lennon, S. Taylor, I. Marshall, M. Izzet, E. Heskey, S. Clandage, M. Roberts, G. Parker, N. Lowe, J. Lawrence, C. Hill, K. Pools.
CHELSEA (from): K. Hitchcock, D. Petrescu, T. Phelan, F. Leboeuf, S. Clarke, A. Myers, M. Hughes, D. Wise, D. Lee, C. Buxley, R. Di Matteo, G. Vialli, S. Minto, E. Johnson, G. Peacock, J. Morris, E. Newton, M. Nicholas, F. Grodos.

MANCHESTER UNITED v LIVERPOOL
TICKETS: Sold out
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 1-1, 3-1, 1-2, 1-1, 0-0, 2-2, 1-0, 2-0, 2-2
HOW THEY LINE UP
MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, G. Neville, D. May, G. Pallister, D. Irwin, D. Beckham, N. Butt, R. Gigg, K. Forsyth, E. Cantona, O. G. Solskjaer, R. Johnson, P. Scholes, S. McClair, R. van der Gouw, J. Cruyff.
LIVERPOOL (from): D. James, J. McAleer, J. Sciales, P. Babb, D. Matteo, S. I. Bjornesbye, J. Barnes, J. Redknapp, S. McKinnis, P. Berger, M. Thomas, S. Collymore, L. Jones, M. Kennedy, A. Warner.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v ASTON VILLA
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 2-0, 0-2, 2-1, 2-5, 0-0, 1-1, 3-4, 0-1
HOW THEY LINE UP
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I. Walker, S. Campbell, C. Calderwood, G. Wilson, D. Howells, R. Fox, E. Sheringham, A. Sinton, R. Rosenthal, S. Carr, S. Nethercott, J. Ebdon, E. Beardsley, A. Nielsen, D. Kenalke, D. Hill, N. Farn.
ASTON VILLA (from): M. Oakes, F. Nelson, A. Wright, U. Strigo, R. Solomka, S. Staunton, M. Draper, A. Townsend, I. Taylor, S. Guncic, D. Yorke, S. Milosevic, T. Johnson, J. Joachim, G. Farnley, L. Hendrie, A. Rachel, M. Bosnich.

WIMBLEDON v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 1-1, 1-0, 1-1, 1-1, 2-1, 1-1, 2-1, 0-1, 2-2
HOW THEY LINE UP
WIMBLEDON (from): N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, B. Thatcher, A. Kimble, C. Perry, B. McAlester, D. Blackwell, D. Jupp, V. Jones, R. Earle, O. Leonhardsen, M. Gayle, D. Holdsworth, E. Ekoku, A. Clarke, J. Goodman, N. Ardley, M. Harford, J. Ewell, P. Fear, P. Head.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K. Pressman, P. Atherton, D. Stiles, J. Newsome, S. Oakes, I. Nolan, S. Nicol, G. Whittingham, G. Hyde, J. Sheridan, M. Pomboy, R. Blinkey, R. Humphreys, A. Booth, M. Bright, D. Hirst, L. Briscoe, O. Truistall.

LEADING SCORERS
6: I. Wright (Arsenal), F. Ravennell (Middlesbrough), L. Ferdinand (Newcastle United), S. A. Shearer (Newcastle United), F. Leboeuf (Chelsea), P. Berger (Liverpool), E. Cantona (Manchester United), O. G. Solskjaer (Manchester United), Juninho (Middlesbrough), K. Campbell (Nottingham Forest), M. La Tisser (Southampton), E. Ekoku (Wimbledon), S. J. Harrison (Aston Villa), D. Yorke (Aston Villa), G. Vialli (Chelsea), E. Heskey (Leicester City), S. McClair (Liverpool), A. Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), R. Humphreys (Sheffield Wednesday), C. Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur), M. Hughes (West Ham United), R. Earle (Wimbledon), M. Gayle (Wimbledon).
The official internet site of the FA Premier League is at <http://www.fa-premier.com/>

COVENTRY CITY v SOUTHAMPTON
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 2-3, 2-1, 1-0, 1-2, 2-0, 2-0, 1-1, 1-3, 1-1
HOW THEY LINE UP
COVENTRY CITY (from): S. Ogrizovic, R. Shaw, L. Dalt, D. Burrows, P. Teller, E. Less, G. McAlester, J. Saleko, D. Dublin, N. Whelan, M. O'Neill, K. Richardson, B. Borrowe, A. Duncanson, M. Hall, M. Isidore, J. Fian, P. Ndlovu.
SOUTHAMPTON (from): N. Moss, A. Neilson, R. Dryden, C. Lundelmann, S. Charlton, N. Macdonald, J. Magilton, E. Berkowitz, M. Cadeby, N. Shipperley, E. Osterstad, G. Potter, R. Wilkinson, D. Beasant, F. Benali, N. Heaney.

SUNDERLAND v MIDDLESBROUGH
TICKETS: Seats available
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 1-0, 1-0, 2-1, 0-1
HOW THEY LINE UP
SUNDERLAND (from): A. Coton, D. Frazer, D. Kubicki, G. Hall, P. Bracewell, K. Ball, A. Meville, R. Ord, S. Agnew, P. Stowell, C. Russell, M. Gray, L. Howey, M. Bridges, A. Alston, M. Smith, A. Rae, D. Kelly.
MIDDLESBROUGH (from): A. Miller, G. Walsh, N. Cox, G. Fleming, S. Vickers, N. Pearson, D. White, N. Barnby, Emerson, F. Ravenscroft, J. Archer, A. Moore, R. Mustoe, Branno, P. Whelan, M. Beck, J. Hendrie, P. Stamp, C. Hignett, L. Liddle, B. Roberts.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION
10.30am Sky Sports Manchester United v Liverpool (live)
10.40pm BBC1 Match of the Day (Highlights)
11.00am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday
3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Coventry City v Southampton (live)
7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football
Sunderland v Middlesbrough (live)

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RUGBY UNION 41

Lynagh warns Euro-sceptics of Italian threat

SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

GOLF 43

England and Scotland left pondering defeat



Hill relaxed as he approaches destiny

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN SUZUKA

THERE is an image that Damon Hill has had on his mind this past week, a scene from a film that woke him from his sleep in the middle of the night on Thursday. It was a film about a running man, a man trying to escape a tribe that is tracking him down somewhere in 19th-century Africa, a man who runs and runs for his life. It was called *The Naked Prey*.

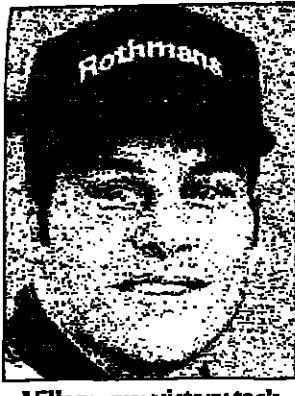
Here in Japan, Hill is running, too. Most of his pursuers have fallen away, undone either by their own misfortunes and inadequacies or the Englishman's refusal to be caught. They have tried to chase him down right from the start of the Formula One motor racing season, from the moment that he won the first race in Melbourne. Now, only one of the hunters remains, and Hill is in the last stages of his flight, almost in sight of sanctuary.

Yet still the film stays on his mind. He has been a target for

one kind of predator or another for too long now. If it was not the lawyers who pursued his penniless family after the death of his father, Graham, the world champion in 1962 and 1968, in a plane crash in 1975, it was the critics who scoffed that he would never be a racing driver like his "old man", or the doubters who said that he did not have it in him to be the world champion. Somehow, there has always been something innately vulnerable about him.

He could not remember the ending of *The Naked Prey* when he talked about it again yesterday, but tomorrow, in the 53 laps of the Japanese Grand Prix, he has one last chance to write the script himself, one golden opportunity to stop running and stand and face his peers, proud of what he has achieved and unflinching in the face of whatever criticism remains.

Even if Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams-Renault teammate and the sole remaining title challenger, wins the race on the high-speed circuit, full



Villeneuve: victory task

of undulations and fast corners that the drivers love, Hill, 36, only has to finish in the top six and score one point to secure his first world championship.

He would become the first British holder of the title since Nigel Mansell, his predecessor at Williams, won it four years ago. It would be a fitting end to his four-year career at Williams, a means of ensuring a flood of lucrative sponsorship offers for next season.

DETAILS FROM SUZUKA

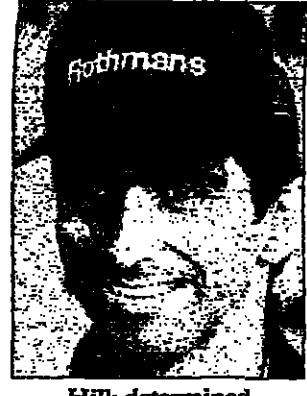
PRACTICE TIMES: 1, G. Berger (Austria, Benetton) 1:42.350; 2, M. Häkkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1:42.564; 3, M. Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:43.321; 4, J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:43.372; 5, D. Hill (GB, Williams) 1:43.747; 6, M. Brändle (GB, Jordan) 1:43.845; 7, J. Alais (Fr, Benetton) 1:43.860; 8, E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:44.052; 9, R. Barrichello (Br, Jordan) 1:44.441; 10, H. Frentzen (Ger, Sauber) 1:44.598; 11, M. Salo (Fin, Tyrrell) 1:44.571; 12, J. Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:45.184; 13, D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:45.471; 14, U. Katajama (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:45.789; 15, O. Panis (Fr, Ligier) 1:45.893; 16, J. Verstappen (Ned, Footwork) 1:46.105; 17, R. Fittipaldi (Br, Footwork) 1:47.255; 18, P. Lamy (Fr, Minardi) 1:48.724; 19, G. Lavigne (Fr, Minardi) 1:50.227; 20, P. Dini (Br, Ligier) 2:02.130.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after 15 rounds): Drivers: 1, Hill 87pts; 2, Villeneuve 78; 3, Schumacher 58; 4, Alais 47; 5, Häkkinen 27; 6, Coulthard and Berger 18; 8, Barrichello 14; 9, Panis 13; 10, Irvine 11; 11, Frentzen and Brändle 6; 13, Salo 5; 14, Verstappen 4; 15, Dini 2; 16, Verstappen 1. Constructors: 1, Williams 165pts; 2, Benetton 65; 3, Ferrari 64; 4, McLaren 45; 5, Jordan 20; 6, Ligier 15; 7, Sauber 10; 8, Tyrrell 5; 9, Footwork 1.

REMAINING GRAND PRIX

Japanese, Suzuka

TELEVISION: BBC2 Live coverage from 4.45pm (pre-race at 4pm). Highlights 10.10.50pm. Eurosport Live coverage from 4.45pm (pre-race at 4pm). 10.30am, 5.30pm and 8pm.



Hill: determined

with a glorious win or seal the championship with a cautious drive for points, but it did not seem to be a dilemma that was disturbing him.

"I do not think there is any way I am going to get it out of my mind that this is a very important race," Hill said. "It is going to be the most crucial race of my life, but I am ready for it and I know what I have to do. I have learnt to accept that there is a lot within my control, but there are factors I can do nothing about."

Hill, who has won seven races already this season, is confident, too, that he will receive equal treatment from Williams, even though Villeneuve will remain with the team next season. Williams have even flown out two spare cars to ensure parity for each driver. His rivals are unanimous that Hill deserves the championship. At a press conference yesterday, Frank Williams, the team owner, went so far as to say it would be "nice" if Hill won the title.

"The race will be the last time I drive a Williams car,"

Hill said. "It will be poignant from that point of view for me. I have made a lot of friends at Williams and enjoyed working with them. It is the end of an era. When I started with them, I had not won a race. Anything of significance that has happened to me has been with them."

Villeneuve, who has appeared equally relaxed despite the pressures, contented himself with saying that the ball was in Hill's court, reiterating that the pressure was on Hill, who had everything to lose.

When he left the track for his hotel last night, though, the image of the running man was still playing in Hill's head. "He ran and ran," he said, "and every time he thought he could not run any more, that he had to stop, he saw the tribe chasing him and he kept on going. He seemed to be running forever."

Tomorrow, though, Hill can banish *The Naked Prey* from his thoughts at last. The running man has been fleeing for long enough. He has earned a long, long rest.

Old Trafford hosts valuable pointer to outcome of race for FA Carling Premiership

Traditional powers in summit meeting

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS tempting to regard the contest between Manchester United and Liverpool today as more than a significant pointer to the destination of this season's FA Carling Premiership title. It is, in effect, a meeting of the old guard and the new, old style football finance and the way forward for the game.

Liverpool, England's most successful team during the 1970s and 1980s, have been superseded by the vibrant Manchester United of Alex Ferguson of the 1990s. It is no coincidence that United have led the way in a commercial revolution that has catapulted football into the realms of

profit-making company. They have already dismissed one takeover proposal of £300 million, and yesterday made it clear that they are not interested in any buy-out plans. Edwards said that he is happy with the direction of the company and wants to continue taking it forward.

If United are the undisputed leaders off the field, then a strong case can be made, so far this season, for Liverpool being the leaders on it. They are top of the FA Carling Premiership and have embraced tactics that seem more sophisticated than their rivals.

The match today will explore just how far Roy Evans's side has come because, as the Liverpool manager himself says, to finish ahead of Manchester United will, in all probability, mean finishing first. "This one match won't decide anything," he said. "But we do know that we will have to be more consistent than United to win the title. We don't want to lose any game, but we particularly don't want to lose this one."

Just how advanced Liverpool's wing-back formation is, will be tested fully in front of a 55,000 Old Trafford crowd. Steve McManaman, in his free role behind the front two, will be pivotal to how they fare, especially in the absence of the injured Robbie Fowler.

For England in midweek, McManaman was not seen at the best because some poor quality distribution from the back offered him little of the ball. United will counter the threat of McManaman with Butt lying deep in midfield, and Cantona will be asked to



Patrik Berger, the Liverpool midfielder player, after a final training session yesterday before the visit to Old Trafford

TELEVISION

Manchester United v Liverpool

SKY SPORTS: Live coverage begins at 10.30am
BBC1: Match of the Day, 10.40pm

high-finance, while Liverpool is still a family-owned private concern.

Martin Edwards, the chief executive of Manchester United plc, had the foresight, in the late 1980s, to defy a strong body of opinion that sporting clubs could never go public. He held his nerve and now the club is worth approaching £300 million, with profits of £10 million a year.

Such success, maintains Edwards, is the only way to compete with the leading Italian and Spanish clubs. Not that the board at Old Trafford has any intention of selling, even though their success has created a vibrant,

find ways around the three-man back line of the visitors. Otherwise their line-up should be unchanged.

Cantona said: "It is important not to lose. We are four points behind, and it is vital at this stage we don't drop too far behind them. I know that if we don't lose too many points now then at the end of the season we will beat every one and win the title. We always finish strong, but we must not leave ourselves too much to do."

Today's game will kick-off at 11.15am because of television demands. United refused to play on Sunday because of their midweek commitments in the European Cup Champions' League, and this, apparently, is the only television slot that could be found.

Shares soar, page 23
Czech makes, page 47
Weekend View, page 47

Asprilla absent without leave

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, the Colombia and Newcastle United forward, has gone missing. He was due to return to England yesterday, after playing for Colombia in their World Cup qualifying tie against Ecuador, but failed to show up at Heathrow.

He will not play in the FA Carling Premiership match away to Derby County this afternoon and is unlikely to feature in Newcastle's Uefa Cup second-round, first-leg match against Ferencváros, of Hungary, on Tuesday. His non-appearance also casts a doubt over his future at St James' Park.

"We don't know where he is," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said yesterday. "We received a fax from Colombia saying that his

plane was stranded in Bogota and couldn't go. Although it has since taken off, we don't know where he is. We're trying to locate him." Paul Stevens, the Newcastle operations manager, was waiting



Asprilla: missing

for Asprilla at Heathrow. He was due to drive him to the Hungarian Embassy in London to obtain a visa for the Uefa Cup trip. Without it, the player would not be able to travel.

It is not the first time that Asprilla, a £7.5 million signing from Parma, of Italy, in February, has gone absent without leave during his career. He disappeared on the eve of an international match last season and was found drinking with friends at a horse show.

Asprilla, who scored the goal in Colombia's 1-0 win over Ecuador on Wednesday, has voiced his discontent at not being given a regular place in the Newcastle line-up this season. He has started only five of the side's 11 matches, scoring one goal.

Clandestine meeting may provide solution

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) met yesterday at a secret venue with representatives of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) in the hope of concluding the protracted dispute that has caused the clubs to threaten a breakaway from their governing body.

It is the intention of both sides to remain in touch until a resolution has been found or talks break down irretrievably. All being well, a joint statement may be made today, but the discussion could be prolonged throughout the weekend. The leading issues revolve around the organisation of competitive structures

Continental drift, page 41

Unhappy Spaniards blow up storm

Edward Gorman finds Britain's Melges sailors overshadowed in Barcelona

Pareja Torregrosa and Tono Garcia, who are all sailing Garvalin yachts owned by Vincente Garcia.

Despite the fact that two British boats — those of Kim Slater and David Shellcock — and one Norwegian yacht were also disqualified, the Spanish concluded that the jury was acting unfairly. Their reaction was partly because the regatta is likely to be decided without a discard after the days lost to the lack of wind so making a disqualification a disaster.

Doreste was also smarting because he was lying second overall behind John

Merricks, of Great Britain, after beating the 470 silver medal-winner in the second race on Thursday. In a letter signed by Doreste and posted on the race noticeboard before the start of racing yesterday, the Spanish skipper said he felt "mistreated" by the jury. The first race had been abandoned because of a "strange and unclear decision".

"All this, together with what we have been told from the rest of the Spanish fleet about the behaviour of the jury towards them, makes us think this event is not being held fairly and we do not feel ready to carry on playing this

game," he said. The jury is made up of experienced sailors from six European nations and is chaired by the Spaniard, Jose Ma de Barenos.

Merricks, on *Glenfidich 3*, who is sailing with his 470 partner, Ian Walker, followed up his first and second places on Thursday with fourth in the first race yesterday and fifth in the second to stay in the lead going into the final day today.

Concert, skippered by Chris Tibbs, is the new leader of the BT Global Challenge. Tibbs has taken the initiative from Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, though his advantage in terms of distance to the finish of the first leg in Rio is only eight miles.

BT Global chart, page 47

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Nigeria	£7.05	\$9.90	29%
Hong Kong	£3.53	\$5.89	40%
Singapore	£3.29	\$5.89	44%

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Mandela defends judge's acquittal of apartheid general

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

MAGNUS MALAN, the former South African Defence Minister, and nine other co-accused walked free from Durban Supreme Court yesterday after being acquitted on charges of murder and conspiracy to murder.

Cheers and applause filled the courtroom as Mr Justice Jan Hugo gave his ruling at the end of the six-month trial. On Thursday, the judge had acquitted six other men, supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party, who were accused of carrying out the 1987 KwaMakhutha massacre of 15 people at the house of an African National Congress supporter and a Zulu village near Durban.

Outside the court, General Malan, 65, said that he was relieved and in a statement thanked President Mandela for giving him and his co-defendants the opportunity to defend themselves in court. The ANC in KwaZulu/Natal expressed its disappointment, saying the prosecution failed "our people". A party spokesman on safety and security said the outcome undermined its faith in the judicial system.

Mr Mandela last night called on South Africans to respect the decision of the judge, who is white, to acquit the former defence chief. He said that his Government would continue to investigate apartheid atrocities and find those responsible for killings or directing the killers.

"The President reaffirms that the courts are the institutions to determine the guilt of the accused and indeed the judicial findings must be respected, even, or especially, by those who are aggrieved by those findings," a presidential statement said.

The State had alleged that General Malan and the co-accused apartheid security chiefs had given their blessing for the creation of a covert unit to support Inkatha in its fight against the United Democratic Front, the surrogate of the then banned ANC, and approved the attack on KwaMakhutha by the six.

General Malan, the Defence Minister between 1980 and 1991, was one of the most feared and hated figures of the apartheid era, and the former ruling National Party has claimed the trial was politically motivated. The case went to the heart of the role of the former South African Government played in stoking up conflict between Inkatha and the ANC from the mid-1980s to by providing



President Havel of the Czech Republic steers his guest, President Sharma of India, in the right direction while reviewing a guard of honour in Prague yesterday. Before arriving for a two-day stay, Mr Sharma visited Slovakia.

Leading article, page 19

Nigerian women's drug gang broken up

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A BIG international heroin smuggling ring run mainly by Nigerian women was broken up yesterday, the US Justice Department announced.

Anti-drug agents and police officers arrested 34 suspects in Pakistan, Thailand and three American cities. They also seized 12lb of heroin with an estimated street value exceeding \$25 million (\$16.6 million).

The case marked the first time that so many women had been involved in a drug smuggling ring, rising to positions of leadership as well as serving as couriers, said Thomas Constantine, head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

The Nigerian women began smuggling heroin in small amounts 15 years ago and had progressed to the point where their operation was as powerful as any in the world, Mr Constantine said.

The ring's network moved the drugs from Southeast Asia to Paris and Amsterdam for trans-shipment to Central America where they were taken by boat to Mexico and then overland to the United States.

Janet Reno, US Attorney General, praised police in Britain, France and Thailand for "unprecedented co-operation" with the American investigators. None of the suspects taken into custody was British.

The role of Nigerians in drug smuggling has been known for several years and the trafficking has grown under the protection of General Sani Abacha, the country's military ruler. The timing of yesterday's arrests could blunt criticism by Bob Dole and the Republicans that President Clinton has been losing the war on drugs.



Mrs Mugabe on her wedding day

Mugabe's lavish lifestyle attacked

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Mugabe was dragged deeper into controversy over his newly extravagant lifestyle yesterday, with the revelation that his Government is building a 30-room mansion for his young wife, Grace.

The privately owned Zimbabwe Independent quoted state construction workers at the 13-acre site in the capital as saying several alterations had been made to the double-storey residence at her suggestion. The paper said it had documents to prove that the house was being built under a scheme meant for senior civil servants, and it questioned how Mrs Mugabe, 31, whose last job was as Mr Mugabe's secretary about ten years ago, had been allowed to benefit.

Labour and materials alone came to about \$385,000.

It is the fourth large official residence the Mugabe family has access to in Harare, and is costing as much as Mr Mugabe and the state spent on his lavish wedding in mid-August, which was attended by about 25,000 people and turned into a three-day binge.

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Internet paedophile ring smashed in Spain

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SPANISH police have broken up an Internet child pornography ring in Vic, near Barcelona, seizing the largest cache of paedophile software found in Europe.

The haul included a database of more than 4,000 files, as well as hundreds of CD-Roms, disks and printers. The masterminds - two university students in their early twenties, identified only as Eduardo A. S. and David J. S. - have been charged by police with "distributing child pornography for gain".

The two men have denied the charges and claim that the material was "only for personal consumption". The material confiscated from the students' flat was "spine-chilling and terrifying", according to Federico Cabrero, chief spokesman for Barcelona police.

The disks contain images of children of no more than three or four years old engaged in sexual acts with each other, with adults and, in certain cases, with animals.

Under Spanish law, the two are likely to receive no more than a fine if found guilty. The penal code does not provide for custodial sentences for the sale or distribution of child pornography.

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Timorese crusaders win Nobel Peace Prize

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN BANGKOK

THE Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to José Ramos Horta and Bishop Carlos Belo of Dili for their efforts to wrest control of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor from Indonesia.

Bishop Belo, in particular, plays a courageous role from his cathedral in the heart of the East Timorese capital, Dili, trying to mediate between an Indonesian military that has often resorted to brutal methods and young East Timorese propelled by hatred generated through a series of massacres. Mr Ramos-Horta, spokesman and leader of the Fretilin Independence Movement, travels extensively trying to mobilise support for independence for the territory.

President Sampaio of Portugal, which champions the East Timorese cause, said: "The award reflects their indefatigable work in the service of human rights and peace in the territory."

The award is the more embarrassing for the Indone-



Belo: courageous role from the Dili cathedral

sian Government since President Suharto is due to visit the territory in four days' time to unveil a statue of Christ, intended as a gesture of reconciliation by the rulers of the world's most populous Muslim country.

The choice of recipient angered the Jakarta Government last night. "We are quite surprised and regret that such a reputable institution could honour a person like Ramos-Horta, who had been involved

in inciting the people of East Timor to separate from the unitary republic of Indonesia," the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said.

Mr Ramos-Horta, a soft-spoken and modest man who is regularly pilloried by the Indonesian Government, said in Sydney that the prize should rightfully go to Xanana Gusmão, the military leader of the East Timorese resistance, who is in a Jakarta jail after being captured by the Indonesian Army last year. Saluting Mr Gusmão, he said: "He's an outstanding man of peace and democracy, a man of courage."

The award will also embarrass the Government of Australia, which is the only country in the world to recognise the Indonesian annexation of East Timor in 1976. Canberra's recognition was soon followed by a treaty on the exploitation of oil beneath the East Timor Sea, a move that enraged Australian veterans who remember the heroism of the Timorese during the Second World War when they often put the safety of Australian troops before their own.

East Timor and its struggle rarely makes the news unless Timorese are dying in their attempts to drive out the three divisions of Indonesian troops. The worst violence since the annexation flared in 1991 when the army put down a pro-independence demonstration, killing up to 200 people, many of whom had fled into a cemetery.

Despite regular condemnation by the United Nations committee on decolonisation, the Indonesian Government has consistently refused to hold a referendum on the future of the territory. Portugal makes the case for East Timor inside the European Union, but the organisation prefers not to jeopardise the lucrative business relationships with a country which is developing rapidly.

□ Jakarta: Five people died when a mob burnt nine churches, four Christian schools and a convent in the Indonesian town of Situbondo. Officials said nearly 3,000 people rioted after a court hearing into a case of alleged blasphemy against Islam. (Reuters)



José Ramos Horta, the joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his fight to free Timor

WORLD SUMMARY

Laureate is found dead

New York: Three days after winning the Nobel Prize for Economics, William Vickrey was yesterday found dead behind the wheel of his car. He was 82.

Dr Vickrey, who was travelling to an academic conference, was found unconscious at the wheel on Thursday night and was pronounced dead early yesterday. At the family's request, the cause of death was not immediately released. It was not immediately clear what would be done with Dr Vickrey's half-share of the \$1.2 million (£775,000) prize money. (AP)

Polling starts in New Zealand

Wellington: New Zealanders go to the polls today with a coalition government the likely outcome of the country's first general election under proportional representation (Jo Andrews writes).

Opinion polls suggest that James Bolger, the Prime Minister, or Helen Clarke, the Labour leader, will need the help of the nationalist New Zealand First party to govern.

Israel to ease security net

Jerusalem: Israel will tomorrow ease its security clampdown on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, granting 35,000 Palestinians permits to work again inside Israel and removing the seal around most Palestinian-controlled cities. (Christopher Walker writes). The move is going ahead despite intelligence warnings of new attacks by Islamic suicide bombers.

Spirit moves mayors to strike

Cognac: Mayors and municipal councillors in the cognac-producing region of Charente, western France, have gone on unlimited strike to protest against a government decision to increase taxes on spirits by 17.1 per cent. The move, aimed at cutting the social security deficit, prompted towns allowed by law to produce cognac to fly the French flag at half-mast. (AFP)

Firewater

Stockholm: Thousands of gallons of confiscated smuggled and bootleg vodka will be converted to methane gas to fire heating in the Swedish capital this winter, customs officials said. (Reuters)

Yeltsin's 'Rasputin' goes on offensive

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S former chief bodyguard, General Aleksandr Kozhakov, once the power behind the throne in the Kremlin, emerged yesterday to deny the allegation that he had extorted \$40 million (£25.8 million).

This sudden public foray by General Kozhakov, who is referred to as "a Rasputin" by his enemies, was prompted by accusations on television last Sunday that he tried to extort the money from Boris Fyodorov, the former head of the National Sports Fund.

He responded, with a counter-accusation that two leading bankers had "put out an order" on him. The general said he was a threat to the new team in the Kremlin because of "the compromising material which is in my head... I have really seen a lot and I know a lot. If I am arrested or something happens to my family, I will consider it an act of political revenge."

The general's fightback promises an autumn of political scandal. His main target is Anatoli Chubais, Mr Yeltsin's chief of staff.

10p

THE TIMES

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Thousands face evacuation as food and fuel crisis hits Russia's frozen north

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

TENS of thousands of Russian civilians may be evacuated from the country's far northern regions because of fears that they could freeze or starve to death over the long, harsh winter.

In what could be the most widespread evacuation since the Second World War, entire communities living in inaccessible regions of the Arctic may have to be airlifted to safety because they have been inadequately supplied with fuel and food.

"What is happening in the north is a real humanitarian crisis," said Boris Misnik, a liberal deputy, who sits on the parliamentary committee for northern issues. "Food is in short supply and most places do not even have half the fuel they require to heat themselves."

He said he had recently returned from a fact-finding visit to the Kola Peninsula inside the Arctic Circle, where buildings, including flats, schools and kindergartens, were still unheated, even though the heating should have come on at the beginning of September.

The region is nevertheless relatively well-off compared with the most remote parts of northeastern Siberia, where isolated communities are cut off for months from the outside world and where temperatures drop below -50C.

The northern regions, which cover 70 per cent of Russian territory, contain some of the country's richest mineral deposits and were extensively colonised during the Soviet period. At the time workers were attracted to the inhospitable areas by better pay and conditions.

All that changed with the collapse of communism when state subsidies evaporated and the 11 million inhabitants of the north found themselves trapped at the end of a meagre food chain.

Many of the most isolated areas can be supplied only during the short summer months when fuel and food can be transported by river. Normally 70 per cent of the winter supplies should already have arrived by the middle of July, although this year most places had only received 30 to 50 per cent of their quota by the time the rivers began to freeze up.

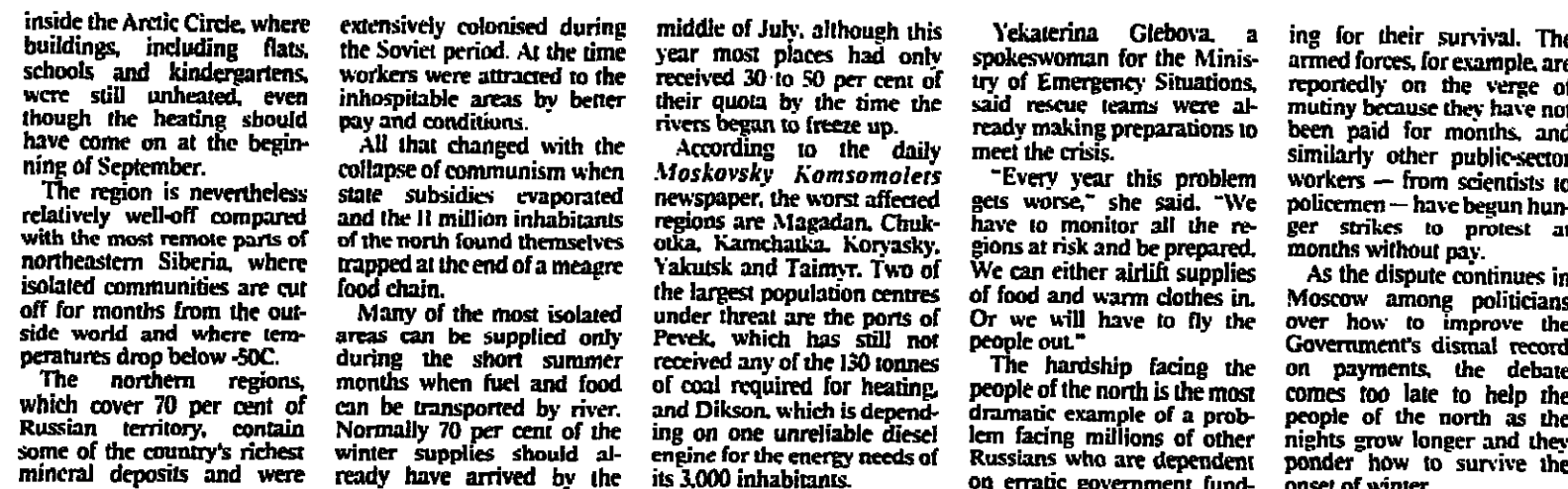
According to the daily *Moskovsky Komsomol* newspaper, the worst affected regions are Magadan, Chukotka, Kamchatka, Koryak, Yakutsk and Taimyr. Two of the largest population centres under threat are the ports of Pevek, which has still not received any of the 130 tonnes of coal required for heating, and Dilson, which is depending on one unreliable diesel engine for the energy needs of its 3,000 inhabitants.

Yekaterina Glebova, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Emergency Situations, said rescue teams were already making preparations to meet the crisis.

"Every year this problem gets worse," she said. "We have to monitor all the regions at risk and be prepared. We can either airlift supplies of food and warm clothes in. Or we will have to fly the people out."

The hardship facing the people of the north is the most dramatic example of a problem facing millions of other Russians who are dependent on erratic government funding for their survival. The armed forces, for example, are reportedly on the verge of mutiny because they have not been paid for months, and similarly other public-sector workers - from scientists to policemen - have begun hunger strikes to protest at months without pay.

As the dispute continues in Moscow among politicians over how to improve the Government's dismal record on payments, the debate comes too late to help the people of the north as the nights grow longer and they ponder how to survive the onset of winter.



Clinton raises the campaign tempo as poll lead slips

FOR 15 minutes this week, President Clinton left the campaign trail to buy his wife a present for their twenty-first wedding anniversary. In Dayton, Ohio, on Thursday afternoon, in the middle of a gruelling 18-hour sweep through America's heartland, he held up his motorcade to rush into the city's finest department store. He wanted a model of a donkey, the Democrat symbol, but had to settle for a crystal glass heart.

With opinion polls showing that his emphatic lead may be narrowing, Mr Clinton has turned up the aggression, criss-crossing territory which he has every hope of winning but cannot afford to lose.

The respected but volatile tracking poll from CNN/Gallup/USA Today yesterday showed Mr Clinton with a lead of 12 percentage points over his rival Bob Dole, down nine points on the day before. A California poll also reported a four-point tightening of the Democrat lead. Although polls are fluctuating widely, the Clinton campaign is braced for its lead to narrow before November 5. That is one reason for Thursday's 1,500-mile charge through Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. Polls show a steady Democratic lead, but the state are too crucial to neglect.

Knoxville, Tennessee, which



President Clinton greets supporters during a walkabout in Dayton, Ohio, a crucial battleground in next month's presidential election

Militia men held over anti-FBI plot

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE FBI has arrested five alleged members of a militia group on charges of plotting to blow up a new centre for the FBI's fingerprint records in West Virginia.

The arrests, described by a federal official as "fairly significant", were the latest episode in the alarming growth in the United States of so-called citizen militias whose mainly white and heavily armed members hold strong anti-government and far-right views.

The five in custody yesterday were described as members of the West Virginia Mountaineer Militia, operating in the Appalachian hills west of Washington. The FBI said they had plotted to place explosives near the headquarters holding the FBI's fingerprint files and crime statistics.

The facility, costing \$200 million (£130 million) was moved 250 miles from Washington to a remote valley in the Appalachians earlier this year. It will eventually have a staff of 2,600 and will house all the FBI's vast archives of criminal records.

Ray Looker, a Vietnam veteran and self-confessed leader of the Mountaineer Militia, has said he believes his constitutional rights are in jeopardy of being removed or diminished by corrupt government officials. He has also asserted that mysterious unmarked black helicopters are spying on leaders of the militia movement around the United States and that they have circled over his home near the West Virginia town of Clarksburg.

Typical of the paranoid views espoused by militia members, he claimed in a pamphlet that one million United Nations troops are stationed at American military bases and that the Government has set up 130 "concentration camps" at abandoned army bases to house law-abiding citizens.

The last major militia case was in July when federal authorities charged 12 members of an Arizona group with conspiring to blow up federal and local buildings. Prior to that, 16 members of an anti-tax group known as the Freemen surrendered peacefully after an 81-day stand-off with the FBI in Montana.

Both President Clinton and Louis Freeh, the FBI director, have raised the alarm about militia groups which are thought to be active in more than 30 states with a nationwide membership of more than 20,000.

They were suspected of being connected to last year's bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, but the two suspects, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, have both denied that they had any militia links.

Dole 'must attack on ethics'

BY IAN BRODIE

BOB DOLE was under intense pressure yesterday to attack President Clinton's ethics. The Republican challenger's failure to play the "character card" has caused a deep split in his camp.

With just over three weeks to the election, he will hold a critical meeting with aides today to decide whether he should try to bolster his chair. He stroked one child's badly-deformed face for a minute.

A little girl, screaming "Mr President, Mr President", was passed over the heads of the crowd to be embraced. "I don't believe this - it's like the Beatles," said one man, forced to climb a lamp-post by the pressure of the crowd.

Stripped of his jacket despite the rain, he leaned into the crowd while a Secret Service minder clutched at his belt from behind. He lurched towards the indentations in the sea of heads which signalled someone in a wheelchair.

He stroked one child's badly-deformed face for a minute.

During Wednesday's vice-presidential debate when he said: "In my opinion, it is beneath Bob Dole to go after anyone personally."

With that declaration, Mr Kemp may have undercut Mr Dole's ability to raise what many consider to be legitimate questions about Mr Clinton's ethical standards and trustworthiness as they relate to abuses of power in the Whitewater affair.



Madonna: due to give birth on Tuesday

Paparazzi's hard labour

Los Angeles: If Versace made nappies they would have been delivered by now (Giles Whitfield writes).

With 72 hours before one of the most anticipated babies in showbiz history is due, publicists for Madonna, the pop star, are refusing to give any information. Paparazzi have staked out every maternity ward in Beverly Hills all night and the mother-to-be is expected to arrive.

The birth will herald an uneasy race for the first photographs of Madonna and child, said to be worth up to \$1 million.

Virgin birth. Magazine, page 8

Afghan conflict divides nation along ethnic lines

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

AFGHANISTAN effectively became two countries yesterday, split along ethnic lines between Pashtuns in the south and non-Pashtuns in the north. It is a logical division of a country destroyed by tribal and linguistic hatred. However, it will not bring peace: it merely simplifies a many-sided war.

Three powerful armies have joined forces against the Taliban Islamic militia, which controls three-quarters of Afghanistan in a line running roughly from the ancient city of Herat in the west to the Khyber Pass. North of that are the Uzbek forces of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, and the Tajik army of General Ahmed Shah Masood. They have formed an alliance, together with a small but nevertheless powerful group, Hezb-i-Wahdat, of the predominantly Shia Hazara tribe, concentrated in the central province of Bamian. The forces arrayed against Taliban are capable of dealing with any invasion.

The hostile language of Taliban leaders, who on Thursday rejected calls by the United Nations for a ceasefire, became suddenly conciliatory yesterday as they digested the implications of the new military order. It was a far cry from last week's demands for the unconditional surrender of the two generals.

Taliban and the alliance are equipped with hundreds of tonnes of munitions, fleets of tanks and artillery guns, as well as a sizeable number of helicopter gunships and some patched-up Russian fighter planes left behind when the former Soviet Union pulled out in 1989. The crucial question is whether the alliance, called the Supreme Council for the Defence of Afghanistan, will try to take Kabul.

Taliban is mostly Pashtun, the traditional rulers of Kabul and the dominant ethnic group, comprising about half the population. Its northern rivals are far more liberal. General Masood claims to favour a secular Afghanistan, although he was a member of the hardline Islamic regime toppled by Taliban.

General Dostum is anything but a religious hardliner: his men even drink. He runs a successful fieldwork that does well from trade and smuggling across the porous borders with some of the former Soviet republics. He was previously allied with

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Legal & General

French Government calls on its sharp-shooting 'Cowboy' to round up Corsican separatists

Maigret packs a Magnum

PARIS FILE
by BEN
MACINTYRE



THE French Government has sent an unequivocal message to separatist guerrillas on the Mediterranean island of Corsica in the bulky and imposing shape of Jean-Louis Bruguière, the country's top and toughest anti-terrorism judge.

Appointing Judge Bruguière to investigate the bombing last weekend of the Mayor's office in Bordeaux by Corsican nationalists is an act of calculated symbolism by the French authorities, for the judge, variously nicknamed "Le Sherif", "Le Cowboy" and "Double-barrelled Bru-Bru", has built up a formidable reputation as France's most efficient and ruthless terrorist-hunter.

Corsican extremists immediately responded to Judge Bruguière's appointment by vowing to kill anyone taking part in the police clampdown.

promised by the French Government. But the judge, 53, is not an easy man to intimidate, having spent the past two decades tracking down French gangsters, Japanese mafia members, Middle Eastern terrorists and home-grown extremists.

Illich Ramirez Sánchez, alias "Carlos the Jackal", the jailed guerrilla suspected of a string of terrorist attacks in the 1970s and 1980s, is only the most notorious of those with good reason to respect Judge Bruguière's tenacity. When the two old adversaries

finally met two years ago after Carlos was seized in Sudan by French agents, the Venezuelan-born terrorist hailed his nemesis as "a star".

A strange mixture of Simonon's Maigret and "Dirty Harry", the heavy-jowled, pipe-smoking (or, in moments of high drama, cigar-chomping) investigator has become an almost mythical figure, beloved by the French public, loathed by the underworld and regarded with caution by his political bosses.

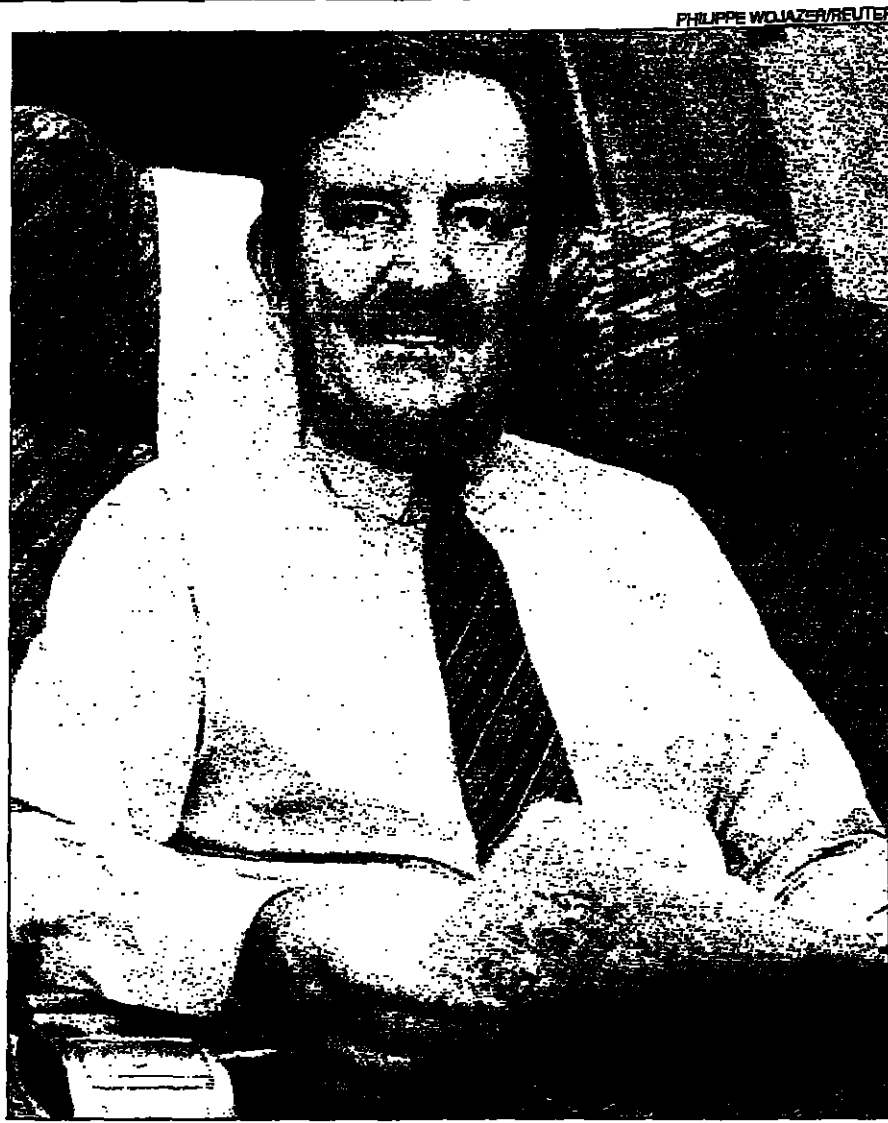
In 1980 he was awarded his

first underworld "assassination contract" after dismantling a prostitution ring; a year later the extreme-left Action Directe group put the judge on its hit-list and in 1987 he returned home to his Paris flat to find that the police had just defused a grenade booby-trap attached to his front door.

After that he began carrying a .357 Magnum. "I'm quite a sharpshooter," he likes to tell journalists. But behind the posturing is a patient, methodical sleuth.

In 1992, during his investigation into the 1989 bombing of a French airliner in which 170 people were killed, Judge Bruguière issued arrest warrants for four Libyans, including Abdallah Senoussi, a brother-in-law of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, and then arrived in Tripoli aboard a French warship.

He was turned away but earlier this year he was back in Libya again, this time with an armed escort of a dozen policemen and official permission to pursue his investigations. Such high-profile actions and his obstinate ways have not always endeared him to the French authorities, and some of his colleagues have accused the judge of megalomania.



Jean-Louis Bruguière, France's top anti-terrorism judge, has received death threats

Ex-Mayor's bid to steal the show

FOLLOWING in the dubious footsteps of Bernard Tapie, the disgraced politician turned film star, another convicted former government minister has decided to take up a thespian career.

Michel Noir, the former Mayor of Lyons sentenced twice this year for corruption, will appear in a production of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, opening on Wednesday in the southern city of Aurillac.

The handsome and rakish M Noir was once a rising star in the Gaullist firmament, Trade Minister when Jacques Chirac was Prime Minister between 1986 and 1988, and widely tipped as a future presidential candidate.

His political hopes evaporated, however, when he was convicted of using city funds to finance political campaigns and for personal expenses. The former Mayor received an 18-month suspended prison sentence and was banned from elected office for five years.

In a magazine interview, M Noir quoted one of his own haiku poems to celebrate his dramatic debut: *From a red radish, the kitchen knife fashions a star.*

But critics, enraged that political disgrace seems to be a passport to fame and fortune, might rather cite a line from *Uncle Vanya*: "The land grows poorer and uglier every day."

Envoy upset by parting gestures

Pamela Churchill Harriman, the American Ambassador to France, has once again become a focus of Paris gossip by refusing to say whether or when she will quit her post.

Last summer Mrs Harriman implied she would be departing at the end of this presidential term, a suggestion she has been playing down ever since. The Ambassador was reported to be intensely miffed when guests for an embassy party earlier this month called

ahead to ask if they should bring farewell bouquets.

Franco-American relations may be under strain, but Paris remains obsessed with Mrs Harriman's exuding past, her marriages to Randolph Churchill, Leland Hayward and Averell Harriman, and her string of former lovers. In a recent book Isabelle Juppé, the wife of the Prime Minister, described her as "the queen of Paris high society".

Pope schedules foreign trips

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE Pope is making a "remarkable recovery" three days after his appendix operation, his doctors said yesterday. His intestinal functions were normal, and there was no sign of fever or abdominal pain of the kind that has dogged him since last Christmas, they said.

There is still concern that the Pope's trembling left hand may be a sign that he is suffering from a form of

Parkinson's disease. But despite the public advice of Professor Francesco Crucitti, who carried out the surgery, to rest more, the pontiff shows no sign of slowing down.

"The Holy Father thanks those cardinals and surgeons who tell him to rest," said Cardinal Paul Poupard, the Vatican's French "Minister of Culture", who accompanied the Pope on his visit to France last month. "Then he sends them away with an amiable smile and does what he has to do." Cardinal Castillo Lara, a

senior Vatican financial official, said there had never been any doubt about the Pope's "lucid mental powers". If he ever became physically incapacitated, it was "not impossible to imagine the Pope ruling the Church from a wheelchair, just as President Roosevelt governed the United States from a wheelchair".

The Pope is drawing up plans for at least five foreign trips next year, including Beirut, Prague, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and his native Poland.



The Pope arriving at hospital last Sunday

Nordic plan to counter biker war

Copenhagen: Ministers of the four Nordic nations yesterday agreed to co-ordinate police and government action against the biker gang warfare that has shattered the peace in one of Europe's most law-abiding regions (Christopher Follett writes).

The meeting was held after last weekend's missile attack on the headquarters of the Hell's Angels gang here, in which two people were killed. Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland also agreed to establish a register of stolen weapons, to co-operate more closely with Europol, to tighten criminal laws and to monitor and study the economy of gangs thought to be involved in racketeering.

Neo-Fascist Austrian woos Britain's Euro-sceptic wing

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE far-right Austrian politician Jörg Haider, who is urging a delay in European Monetary Union, is poised to make a strong showing in the country's first ever European elections this weekend.

Herr Haider, a suntanned, Porsche-driving populist, is profiting from a radical shift in the national mood since June 1994 when two-thirds of Austrians voted to join the European Union. Now barely a third of Austrians say they are committed to the EU.

In part, this is because of exaggerated pre-referendum promises. The Socialists, for example, pledged that the average Austrian family would be £25 a day better off

because of lower food prices and other benefits. In part, it is also because of the pain of budget cuts needed to meet the Maastricht monetary union targets.

Austrian membership of monetary union, Herr Haider said, would further squeeze an already depressed tourist industry. There was only one way forward, he said: to delay monetary union — "I would be happy if we didn't meet the criteria" — and to delay eastward enlargement of the Union.

As soon as members of his Freedom Party were in the European Parliament, he said, he would attempt to reach a common platform with British

Conservatives and members of Italy's Northern League to present an anti-Maastricht bloc in Strasbourg. Talks with the British were already under way on this subject.

Herr Haider makes the liberal Vienna establishment very nervous. Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, urged voters to reject firmly the spectre of fascism. Among Herr Haider's many utterances was explicit praise for Hitler's employment policies. His disparaging comments about foreign workers and Bosnian refugees have helped to stir up a generally hostile, angry climate. "This is our city, it is not Istanbul," he told crowded rallies this week.

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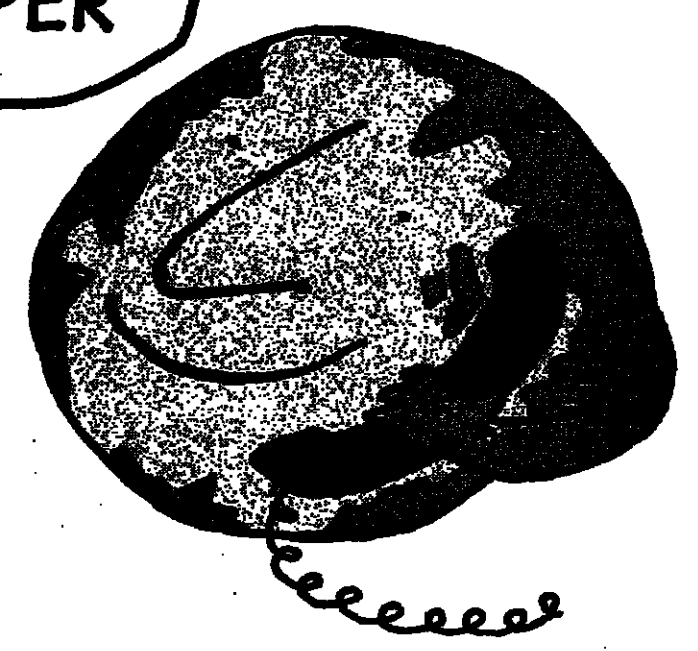
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OPINION

Today's disputes between priests and organists are nothing compared with those in J.S. Bach's time



DANCE

With the hype cleared away, Joaquin Cortes's 'rock flamenco' emerged as a very average night out

THE TIMES ARTS



POP

A powerful Welsh double-bill puts the Manic Street Preachers on tour with Catatonia



ON MONDAY

From Python to the riverbank: Terry Jones on his new film, *The Wind in the Willows*

Could you jazz it up a bit, Mr Bach?

Did you feel a sense of déjà vu this week? A Norfolk church choir has walked out because the vicar is choosing the sort of toddler-friendly modern hymns that make *Thomas the Tank Engine* read like Thomas Aquinas. Church choirs and organists seem to quit, or get sacked, rather regularly these days, don't they? Perhaps the Church of England should add a new festival to its calendar: Bust-Up Sunday. How might the service begin?

Vicar: O Lord, open Thou our lips.
Choir: Not likely, if you have chosen *Ping Went the String on Little David's Hump*.
Vicar: O God, save us from decrepit organists.
Choir: O Lord, spare us the tambourines.
Vicar: Go forth and rave!
(*Acolytes shall turn on the strobe lighting. Spinners shall gyrate.*)
Choir: That does it. We're joining the Catholics.
Vicar: Their music is even worse. (*All shall then consult solicitors.*)

In fact, punch-ups between priests and musicians are far from new. Indeed, in the 16th century there was a massive rumour - involving Popes, bishops and every top composer - that exactly paralleled present-day arguments. On one side were the priests, determined to stop the beautiful but complex choral music which we recognise today as a glory of the Renaissance. The priests didn't dispute its beauty, but they pointed out, not unreasonably, that the music was so complex that listeners couldn't understand a word. It could have been the latest tavern ditty, for all the congregation could tell. When they discovered that many composers, actually were slipping tavern ditties into their masses - to show how cleverly they could conceal a well-known tune - well, they turned ecclesiastical purple with rage and de-

manded reformation (or, to be precise, Counter-Reformation). Palestrina is the composer for whom I feel most sorry. As the leading Vatican tunesmith, he resolved to write a work that would not only satisfy the stropky cardinals who demanded simplicity, but also his own sophisticated tastes. The result was a masterpiece: the *Missa Papae Marcelli*, dedicated to the Pope who decreed "primo le parole e poi la musica" (words first, music later). Alas, Marcellus died after three weeks in the job (the Mafia, I expect), and his successor was the dreaded Paul IV. A keen supporter of the Inquisition, and no culture-vulture (he covered up the naughty bits of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling), he promptly fired Palestrina. So much for gratitude. But many other great composers also fell foul of the Church.



RICHARD MORRISON

William Byrd, the supreme English composer of all time (we don't hedge our bets on this page) was regularly fined for being a Catholic, even though he was also the musical jewel of Elizabeth I's

Chapel Royal. Thomas Weelkes, whose exquisite madrigals still bring tears to discerning eyes, was sacked as choirmaster of Chichester Cathedral for sustained drunkenness. Henry Purcell was punished by his Westminster Abbey bosses for selling grandstand seats in his organ loft for the 1688 Coronation. And J.S. Bach swapped virulent letters with his employers throughout his 27 years as cantor of St Thomas, Leipzig. It didn't stop him from producing the most magnificent corpus of sacred music the world has known. In fact he wrote the *St Matthew Passion* in the very year when his salary was cut. I suppose this confirms the popular theory that the proper way to nurture creative genius is to let it starve in a garret. The irony about the present dispute between English priests

and choirs is that it reverses the last civil war, in the early 19th century. Then it was the choirs who were clinging to their viols and clarinets, which they scraped and tooted in noisy anarchy, while the priests were primly determined to impose decorum and "introduce new-fangled organs. It is all delightfully captured in Thomas Hardy's *Under the Greenwood Tree*. Today it is the choirs who wish to preserve the organ and the decorum, while the priests want to send in the pop bands and loosen things up.

This is a fascinating sociological struggle, even for those who never set foot in church, because it has less to do with religion than with the ethics of change. It touches on a dilemma that continually torments modern Britain: how far can we overhaul

much-loved but wrinkly institutions without destroying their souls? I have some sympathy with the young priests. Imagine how they are briefed by their bishops: "Right, I'm giving you a nice, difficult inner-city parish, high unemployment, massive school truancy, muggings nightly. Go and convert these people! And by the way, your chief liturgical tool will be a choir that just loves to sing 16th-century Latin motets." Well, the word "irrelevant" does spring to mind, doesn't it? But consider this. A hard-nosed record company, Warner Classics, recently asked people what sort of music gave them a "spiritual uplift in a material world". Then, using the results, it issued a CD of choral music called *Agnes Dei*. It has soared straight to No 1 in the classical charts. So what's on it? You can probably guess. Lashings of Palestrina, Bach, Algrei, Mozart... and not a happy-clappy chorus in earshot. The old devils still seem to have the best tunes.



"Rock'n'roll flamenco, bathed in high-tech lighting and accompanied by ear-splitting sound": Joaquin Cortes struts his stuff

Sex on a schtick

The hype merchants were hard at work in advance of Joaquin Cortes's arrival at the Albert Hall. "The glittering pagan Spanish sex god," screamed the press releases; the charismatic dance star who single-handedly revolutionised flamenco, opined a fawning BBC TV documentary; the smouldering Latin lover who promised to excite our blood with his presence on stage. After a build-up like that we

DANCE: Debra Craine is less than impressed by the over-hyped Joaquin Cortes and his flamenco

were expecting an amalgam of Valentino and Nureyev, with a dash of the veteran Spanish dancer Antonio Gades thrown in. What did we get? A dancer of modest talent and immodest pretension desperately trying to stretch his artistic resources into a two-hour show designed

to rival those of Madonna and Michael Jackson. Not that we saw much of Cortes anyway. For all the attention this Cordoba gypsy garner, he does not hog the stage in *Gypsy Passion*. Cortes is supported by three leading dancers, an ensemble of 11

women and a 14-piece band of musicians and singers. By the time they have all had their moment in the spotlight, there isn't much room left for him. After a suitably dramatic entrance, his bare chest gleaming as his slim ponytailed figure struts through the audience and on to the stage, Cortes fails to capitalise on the initial buzz. Gradually, he lets the show slip away from him, forcing himself to work ever harder to raise the temperature.

Classical ballet, modern dance and jazz all find a place in Cortes's vision of rock'n'roll flamenco, bathed in flashy high-tech lighting and accompanied by ear-splitting sound. But, along with the hair combs and castanets, Cortes has also jettisoned the pride and integrity of true flamenco.

His overblown solos find him straining to flesh out flimsy movement ideas into substantial phrases, only to reveal that the vocabulary isn't there, despite the fact that, as a classically trained dancer, he has a wealth of material to draw upon. His ferocious footwork - the heart of flamenco - is delivered with ludicrous egotistic embellishment; even his scorching sensuality turns out to be rather feeble.

Cristobal Reyes, Cortes's uncle, fares better, although we have seen more impressive performances from him with Cumbre Flamenco. Marco Berriel adds classical grace to the proceedings, although Berriel's duet of death with Cortes is a bombastic piece of cod homoeroticism.

The music, by Pepe "El Montoyita" and Juan Parrilla, is also updated, incorporating salsa as well as jazz influences into its flamenco base and adding violins, flutes and a double bass to the traditional Spanish guitars. The musicians are wonderful, as are the singers, although it is an insult to the power of Charo Manzano and Ana Reyes's keening vocals that someone thought it necessary to mike them (badly). Giorgio Armani provided the chic costumes.

The underdog's chance to hwyl

POP

Manic Street Preachers/Catatonia Southampton

Design For Life which prefaced the group's arrival.

Meanwhile, a vast screen behind the stage beamed out stark images of class war spiced with provocative quotes from Marx, Orwell, Sartre and others. From most

bardic bands there would be intellectual window dressing, but the Manics have come to signify something deeper, a pride in working-class education and a cultured dignity which stridently defies the swaggering hedonism of traditional rock'n'roll. In this respect, they are the absolute antithesis of Oasis, despite having played down the bill to the Mancunian megastars several times in recent months.

Although songs which namecheck Sylvia Plath and Harold Pinter might suggest a dangerously pretentious

the Welsh trio's muscular attack one iota, nor has the ominous disappearance of their former guitarist Richey Edwards curtailed their upward arc from punk outsiders to supremely confident existential rockers.

Most of their songs are relentlessly tragic in mood. Solitude, despair and man's inhumanity to man are recurring motifs, as in the band's current single *Kevin Carter*, which commemorates a press photographer who committed suicide after witnessing the genocide in Rwanda.

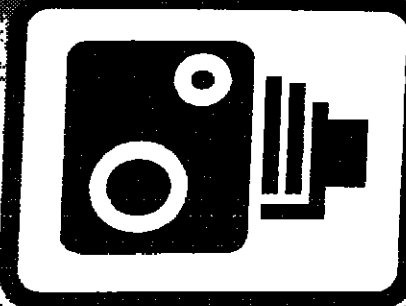
But, perversely, these cathartic numbers provided the

show's most potent and uplifting moments, transcending the earnest A-level angst of their lyrics with soaringly anthemic grandeur. No other band could inspire mass outbreaks of frenzied dancing with songs about Nazi death camps, but the Manics possess enough moral authority and robust self-belief to carry off such bizarre feats. Indeed, it was only when they shrugged off their doomy gravitas and began acting like more orthodox rock groups that they seemed to falter. The latter half of their set was peppered with weaker tunes from their youth, such as *Motown Junk* and *You Love Us*, naive two-chord sketches which only served to prove beyond doubt that the Manics were never destined to be a party band.

This is the paradox at the heart of the Manic Street Preachers. They manage to make emotional numbness sound desperately passionate, fatalism feel heroically positive and turn savage alienation into a communal bond. This makes them not just unique but a hugely compelling spectacle.

STEPHEN DALTON

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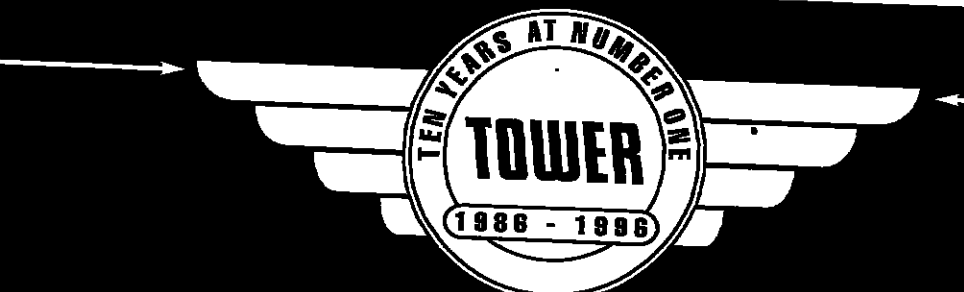
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Heirs of the Tory sages fight it out

Powell, Macleod and Heath still divide the party, says Robert Shepherd

On February 13, 1957, Enoch Powell, then a rising star at the Treasury, set down his thoughts on the Tory party's future in a letter to Iain Macleod, the Cabinet minister who had just taken charge of reviewing Tory policy in the wake of Eden's resignation as Prime Minister over Suez. In a juxtaposition that was to become his trademark, Powell appealed to logic while asserting a romantic nationalism. "The courage to act rationally will flow from the courage to see things as they are," he declared. "The Tory party has to find patriotism again, and to find it, as of old, in this England."

Almost 40 years later, with the Tories again in deep trouble, echoes of Powell's post-Suez prescription have been heard from a trio of Euro-sceptic former ministers on the conference fringe at Bourne-mouth: Lord Tebbit, Norman Lamont and John Redwood. The tide of opinion among constituency parties and parliamentary candidates is running strongly in their favour, despite yesterday's impressive display of unity in the conference hall.

But the battle for the soul of the party reflects a longer struggle between competing Tory traditions. These traditions matter, for they reflect politicians' core beliefs and explain why they may suddenly erupt, as Kenneth Clarke did recently over the single currency.

The main post-war Conservative traditions are personified by Enoch Powell, Iain Macleod and Sir Edward Heath. All three first entered the Commons in 1950 and were among the nine founding members of the "One Nation" group. They agreed on the need for a distinctively Tory social policy, but a faultline on Europe soon appeared.

In June 1950, Heath devoted his maiden speech to supporting Churchill's call for Britain to join in planning the European Coal and Steel Community — forerunner of the EEC, the EC and today's EU. Powell, however, was among six imperialists who defied the Tory whip. "It was my first act as a Euro-sceptic," Powell later claimed. In fact, having renounced the Empire in 1944, he was to support Britain's abortive attempts to join the EEC in the 1960s before his return to the Euro-sceptic fold in 1969.

Later in the 1950s, a major faultline also emerged in Tory economic policy. At the Treasury, Powell was a key player in the Tories' first post-war monetarist experiment during 1957-58. Macleod led the counter-attack in Macmillan's Cabinet that culminated in the resignation of the entire Treasury team, while Heath, as Chief Whip, had to manage the ensuing crisis. Defeat for the monetarists confirmed the centrist direction of Tory economic and social policy, which took credit for Macmillan's 1959 landslide victory.

Of the three, Heath eventually rose to become Prime Minister and took Britain into the EEC in 1973. Today his technocratic politics and belief in European federalism are virtually eclipsed in his own party — hence the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine. But despite Macleod's untimely death in 1970 and Powell's departure from the Tory benches in 1974, the most interesting debate among today's Tories is between their heirs.

Both Powell and Macleod wanted the Tories to become a radical and truly national party that appealed across the old class divisions. Hence their anger in 1963 when the aristocratic Douglas-Home became Prime Minister instead of the great post-war Tory moderniser, "Rab" Butler. Powell advocated economic liberalism and, from the mid-1960s, an increas-

singly nationalistic stance on immigration, defence and Europe. His coming out against the EEC was fateful, since his nationalist heirs have steadily superseded the old Commonwealth lobby to become the dominant force among Euro-sceptics.

By contrast, Macleod proposed economic intervention and social liberalism, while envisaging the creation of a dynamic economy through tax reform (a goal echoed in Chris Patten's espousal of the economics of the Asian "tigers"). As an internationalist, Macleod believed passionately in Britain's role in the Commonwealth, the Atlantic Alliance and Europe. John Major and Malcolm Rifkind are closest to this tradition.

A further distinction between Powell and Macleod reflects the 18th-century division between court and country, which cut across Whig and Tory loyalties. Court politicians set their sights on winning and holding office. Their country counterparts were suspicious of the corrupting influence of power and were natural backbenchers. Whereas Macleod saw politics as being about getting things done in office, Powell is essentially a country Tory.

Powellism, marrying market economics with nationalism, was a precursor of Thatcherism — although Powell's anti-Americanism and his denunciation of nuclear deterrence were anathema to the Iron Lady.

But Margaret Thatcher, at any rate until she was deposed in 1990, was always more court than country. That is why her reign lasted so long. Indeed, it was Macleod as Shadow Chancellor in 1965 who gave Mrs Thatcher her first big break by insisting that she should become his deputy, and he was soon suggesting that the Tories might one day choose a woman leader. Powell first realised that Mrs Thatcher's instincts would be overruled by her ambition for office in 1978 when she voiced the fear of being "swamped" by immigration but then avoided repeating this taboo word.

Today, the issue of Europe has a new urgency because of the Franco-German drive towards a single currency. The stakes are high. Europe could split the Conservative Party as catastrophically as Corn Law reform in 1846 or tariff reform in the early 1900s.

Macleod's approach offers a way forward. He was what might be termed a pro-European sceptic, tempering support for British membership with shrewd political judgment. Recognising that most Britons were reluctant Europeans, he saw the need to keep party and people in step. Before the 1970 election, he privately favoured a referendum on British entry to the EEC. Macleod spurned the idea, and went in anyway. Labour later took it up and in 1974, with Powell's support, defeated Heath.

Today's Cabinet compromise on the single currency — keeping options open but promising a referendum before joining the euro — reflects Macleod's pragmatic approach. But if, as seems increasingly likely, the Tories lose the next election, there will be intense pressure to follow Powellite instincts. The Tories, however, must avoid becoming the new country party, banging the patriotic drum and offering simple nostrums but locked in permanent opposition. They will do well to remember that without office they can do nothing.

The author has written biographies of Iain Macleod and, most recently, Enoch Powell (both published by Hutchinson).

We have been slow to celebrate our greatest contemporary artist, says Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Francis Bacon and the meaning of life

Towards the end of the 1950s, rumours began to leak to the outside world that a nest of bibulous painters had been uncovered in Soho. A squadron of critics dashed to the scene, cordoning off Wheeler and the Colony Room, corralling Michael Andrews and Frank Auerbach, Lucian Freud and Francis Bacon into a so-called School of London.

But although the label served its purpose in some ways, focusing attention away from the abstract art of America and towards the figurative painting that was going on in England, it was a misleading one. The artistic explosion had already occurred, launching each of the painter on his separate trajectory. And of these, none was to prove more powerful or individualistic than Francis Bacon.

Bacon's talent was marked by an imperious solitude. Lucian Freud once described him as the wildest and wisest person he had ever known. Bacon himself said in an interview that he had flouted conventional standards, working on his character to make himself as unnatural as he possibly could.

When an artist pours his talent as much into his life as his art, biography becomes an important means of understanding the work. Bacon's painting — more than that

of any other artist of his generation — is illuminated by accounts of his life. Of the handful of biographies that have been published since his death in 1992, Michael Peppiatt's *Anatomy of an Enigma*, which has been serialised in *The Times* this week, is the most serious and comprehensive.

Bacon did not start painting in earnest until the relatively late age of 35. It was only through his life, he said, that he found his subjects. Among the formative influences were his upbringing, virtually without formal education, in Irish country houses; the decadence of urban life in Paris and Berlin; his drinking, gambling and almost sado-masochistic homosexuality.

But simple correlations between life and art are always reductive, and never more so than in Bacon's case. His central philosophy was that man is an accident who plays

out the game of existence without reason. He dedicated himself to fulfilment with an almost religious fervour. But since life for him seemed in essence so banal, he thought that he might as well make some sort of grandeur of it.

"I am greedy for life... for what chance can give me far beyond anything I can calculate logically," he once said. As a young man staying in Monte Carlo he ended up one night winning £1,600 at the casino. This was then an enormous amount. But Bacon did not believe in making provision for the future. He used the money instead to take a villa which he stocked with wine and food and friends. Ten days later he had scarcely enough money to buy a ticket back to London.

His attitude to painting was similarly volatile. "All art," he said, "has now become completely a

game by which man distracts himself." He shrugged off critics who sought to find in his work allegories of 20th-century life. Rather, he was determined to preserve "the vitality of accident", to create images "with the foam of the unconscious" locked around them. Hurling fistfuls of paint at his canvases, sweeping them with rags, pitching turpentine over their surfaces, he allowed each image to grow spontaneously.

As he attacked and brutalised human appearance, mashing and twisting it in bruised hues, Bacon tried to escape illustrational aspects of the image and evoke instead a "brutality of fact". His aim, to use Valéry's words, was "to give the sensation without the boredom of conveyance". He sought to "unlock the valves of feeling" so that the

onlooker would return to life more violently and more poignantly.

An example of this was Bacon's discovery in Paris of a hanged, coloured book of buccal diseases, which lies behind his fascination with the open, screaming mouth. He wanted to paint its glittering colours, he said, with all the shimmering beauty with which Monet painted landscapes. He was haunted by the images of Muybridge's photographs, and they became a source of ideas. His passion for the Old Masters of Flanders, Spain and Italy can be traced in many of his paintings. And the Greek tragedian Aeschylus was an inspiration to him — he always regretted not being able to read the *Oresteia* in the original. "The reek of human blood is laughter to my heart," was one of the lines he liked to quote, and became a focus for his themes.

Ultimately it is the visceral beauty of the paintings that matters. This year Paris seized the initiative, staging the first large-scale retrospective of Bacon's work since his death. It has attracted some 5,000 visitors a day. Although Peppiatt's biography is a welcome addition to the body of work on our greatest contemporary artist, we have been too tardy in celebrating modern British genius.

Sue us, Your Majesties

The time has come for the Royal Family to defend itself in court

The only truths in a newspaper are births, marriages and deaths. All else is distortion. There is no other way to get the facts to fit the page. And there is no distortion like a tabloid story about the Royal Family. So competitive has this market become that mendacity is precision engineering.

Last Thursday, Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, wrote to *The Times* to criticise newspapers after *The Sun's* "Di-and-Hewitt" hoax and the *Express's* "Prince Wills in love" story. He deplored them, though not by name. Lord Wakeham deplores as an intrusive verb. When faced with tabloid excess, his predecessor, Lord McGregor of Durris, would

Simon Jenkins

be asked by a new Secretary of State, Virginia Bottomley, to prepare "new measures". He pleaded this week for a "new way forward in strengthening self-regulation". He promised that the press "will rise to this new challenge", contriving not to choke on his words. Nothing will be done. There are too many elections about.

Britain's newspapers are an admirable example of what ministers have been boasting about in Bournemouth this week. They are a slimmed-down, productive and competitive industry. They need no subsidy and beg no protection. They are there to kill or be killed. Lord Wakeham is the industry's sole regulator, and as far as privacy is concerned, his press code of practice is his sole weapon.

In my view, the code has been reasonably successful. Its rules for legitimate whistle-blowing against crime, antisocial behaviour and hypocrisy — have given both public and private individuals a measure of protection. The press is kinder now than a decade ago to the children of politicians, to the sick and to the grief-stricken. The change is not seismic, but has been marked. By definition, the public never sees a newspaper exercising self-restraint.

But one institution has enjoyed no protection from the code: the Royal Family. The reason is that

Three guardians stand between a newspaper and the sort of fiasco which last week hit *The Sun*. One is the journalist's instinct for accuracy, good taste and kindness to small children. These days, *requiescat in pace*. The second guardian is the law of libel. This may be costly but is no paper tiger. The third is Lord Wakeham and his Press Complaints Commission.

Lord Wakeham is a backstop to the press's code of practice on privacy, a code that is not supported by statute. Four years ago the then minister David Mellor warned the press that it was "drinking in the Last Chance Saloon". Fleet Street must stop intruding on personal privacy or the Government would act. Shortly afterwards Mr Mellor's body was found convulsed in the dust, full of tabloid lead. His successors, Peter Brooke and Stephen Dorrell, were understandably more tentative. Nothing was done.

This week Lord Wakeham has been asked by a new Secretary of State, Virginia Bottomley, to prepare "new measures". He pleaded this week for a "new way forward in strengthening self-regulation". He promised that the press "will rise to this new challenge", contriving not to choke on his words. Nothing will be done. There are too many elections about.

Britain's newspapers are an admirable example of what ministers have been boasting about in Bournemouth this week. They are a slimmed-down, productive and competitive industry. They need no subsidy and beg no protection. They are there to kill or be killed. Lord Wakeham is the industry's sole regulator, and as far as privacy is concerned, his press code of practice is his sole weapon.

In my view, the code has been reasonably successful. Its rules for legitimate whistle-blowing against crime, antisocial behaviour and hypocrisy — have given both public and private individuals a measure of protection. The press is kinder now than a decade ago to the children of politicians, to the sick and to the grief-stricken. The change is not seismic, but has been marked. By definition, the public never sees a newspaper exercising self-restraint.

But one institution has enjoyed no protection from the code: the Royal Family. The reason is that



Diana and the press pack: litigation must be better than continuing lies and humiliation

the royal saga is a market phenomenon that at present defies regulation. It is the industry's seam of gold, a product guaranteed to sell worldwide and for astonishing sums of money. Few British readers will realise the voracity of the global appetite for Royal Family stories. Magazines in a dozen languages are devoted to it. A Royal Family headline will boost street sales from Los Angeles to Lusaka, from Nice to Nagasaki. Two paragraphs will syndicate for a thousand pounds. A good picture will go for tens of thousands.

Lord Wakeham's tut-tutting will have no impact on this business. Nor would any law on privacy. Royal stories are to the tabloids what cocaine is to the Colombian economy. They are a commercial necessity. My colleague Brian MacArthur noted this week that *The Sun* increased its Saturday sale last month by 100,000 merely by printing a cobbled "spoiler" about the Duchess of York. This was to preempt some rubbish in the *Daily Mirror* about her mystic consultant, rubbish which itself was sold round the world. Even if British newspapers withdrew every reporter and photographer from the ratpack, a dozen foreign freelancers would take their place.

Can nothing be done? Even the most prominent public figures are entitled to some privacy. No matter if they court fame, invite publicity,

parade their most intimate secrets before the world, they are still entitled to lives as free from psychological assault as from physical assault. Respect for personal dignity — as important as respect as for personal privacy — should not be proportionate to fame or even exhibitionism. If parents seem unconcerned about the happiness of their children, that does not exonerate the press from such concern.

Lord Wakeham is the custodian of these entitlements. In his *Times* letter he protests that he is hogtied in deploring intrusion because the Royal Family does not like to complain. Without a complaint his commission's "process of investigation" cannot begin. Yet later in his letter he warns the press that the commission "has powers to raise its own complaints when it needs to — and will not hesitate to use them". Both statements cannot be true. The first looks like an excuse and the second an empty threat.

The commission is simply too feeble to help the Royal Family. But the family does have one redress. It has long believed that suing newspapers is beneath its dignity. It does not need the money, and the humiliation of appearance in court would aggravate the harm of a libel. This is usually a sound principle. I say, never sue. Threaten, cajole, plead, whinge, but never sue. It is never worth the pain even if it is sometimes worth the cost. A nasty

story in the press is an accident, an act of God. It is best "got over" as soon as possible.

But in the case of the Royal Family I am not sure this is wise. As Elton John and a number of politicians discovered in the 1980s, juries will treat libel as a proxy for privacy and award big damages, in effect deterring the press from continuing harassment. Elton John's £1 million in 1988 gave him remarkable media protection. Those who win big libel cases erect round themselves a magnetic field, repelling intrusion.

At present the press believes it can print what it likes about the Royal Family because the rewards are huge and there is little risk in not checking facts. The royals do not retaliate. Experience suggests that the agony and indignity which this licence inflicts must outweigh the dignity of avoiding litigation. When lies are written about them, the Royal Family should hit back with a vengeance. There should be blood on the Law Courts floor. A few stunning settlements and Fleet Street would go more carefully across this enticing terrain.

Besides, the time has surely come for the Royal Family to share in the profits of an industry to which they supply the raw material. Politicians used to boast that Lord Beaverbrook educated their children. Perhaps we have a new way to supplement the Civil List.

Opera then

DAVID HOCKNEY and the opera world are to part. So disaffected is the artist with the way his time is "wasted" by opera companies that he is to abandon his much-praised career as a production designer. Top of his blacklist is the Royal Opera House.

"I've drawn a line under opera

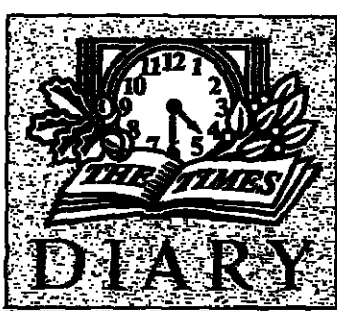
designing," he says in the November issue of *BBC Music* magazine. "I always end up saying the same thing to the people that run opera: you're satisfied with the third-rate because you compare it with the sixth-rate; you're pleased because you can point to something worse and see that it isn't quite

as bad as that. What about thinking of the first-rate for a change? It's often only a little extra, but they're not hungry for quality, even when it comes to them on a plate."

Hockney says he will now restrict himself to painting — his new subject is the *Dora of Los Angeles* — but Nicholas Payne, director of the Royal Opera, has hopes of luring him back.

"There is something magical about his work, but he probably has a point. The trouble for any solitary artist when he comes into the murky world of opera is that it is a collaborative process and you have to compromise. I can see how that must be a terrible torment."

More trouble looms for the Royal Family. Yesterday Kitty Kelley finally delivered the typescript of her book about them. Kelley started out writing about the Duke of Edinburgh. Then the book's scope grew and grew, and its deadline was put back farther and farther. For the likely content, the royal minders might care to read Kelley's *knifing of Frank Sinatra*, which is said to have turned the singer's eyes from blue to a blazing



red, or her vicious reputation-wrecker on Nancy Reagan.

Ripping yarn

EVERYONE'S favourite nobody, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, was nearly 20 minutes late at the Cambridge Union on Thursday night to propose the motion: "This House Would Dress for Success." She had been dressing. It had taken her an inordinately long time, she explained, to squeeze into her G-string and breathtakingly tight gold ballgown, which she called her "gold condom dress".

After some heckling, she skipped to the highlight of her speech, a story of how she had split her dress at

a party given by Imran and Jemima Khan for the premiere of the film *Emma*. "I had to rush off to the ladies and have myself sewn back in," said Miss P-T. "I wish I had a lady-in-waiting full-time."

Buckle down

WHEN I bumped into Lord Strathclyde, the Tory Chief Whip in the Lords, at the Bournemouth conference, his shoes caught my eye. To the untrained, the large gold buck-

les spoke of Gucci loafers, an odd European touch in so British a figure. "New & Lingwood," he told me almost apologetically. "I bought them because I hate polishing my shoes, so I thought that if I wore ones with a shiny gold buckle people would be distracted from seeing how filthy the shoes were. Sadly, once their eye has been drawn to the buckle, they tend to inspect the rest of my shoes when before they wouldn't have even looked down there at all."

Consolation from Lord Tebbit for those on the Tory Right torn between party loyalty and a longing for election defeat and a sceptical realignment. "It's happened before," he says. "I woke up on the night of the 1972 election after this terrible nightmare. Wilson had won. Finally I got back to sleep then a couple of hours later I woke up sweating again. I'd had another nightmare. Ted Heath had won."

Resting

FRIENDS of Tamsin Olivier, daughter of the late Lord Olivier, tells me she is now pregnant. Since her costume marriage in June of



Tamsin: bloomish

last year to the actor Simon Dutton, she has virtually abandoned her own spluttering acting career in favour of her successful restaurant. The Engineer, in North London.

Neither her agent nor staff at the restaurant, however, have seen her for some time now. She has disappeared off into the country with her husband, doubtless to contemplate their forthcoming production.

P.H.S



Hockney on his set for *The Rake's Progress* at Glyndebourne

مكتبة من الأصم



A TALE OF TWO LEADERS

Personalities versus policies in the months ahead

Over the past fortnight, two men have found their voice. In Blackpool, Tony Blair delivered a grandiloquent oration with confidence and verve. In Bournemouth yesterday, John Major gave a more modest, down-to-earth and endearing speech with self-possession and ease. The contrast could hardly have been greater: as the parties' policies are seen to converge, the choice between the two men and their voices may become the biggest election issue.

Mr Major's speech was a clear sign that the Tories will fight Labour on the centre ground. A pledge to increase spending on the NHS in real terms for each of the next five years and new plans to help the long-term unemployed back to work are both policies that might have sprung from new Labour. Indeed the spending promise thanked Gordon Brown from the Left.

The convergence between the two parties is summed up by the Conservatives' conference slogan this year: Opportunity for All. The words could as comfortably have appeared above the stage in Blackpool as in Bournemouth. "Opportunity" is traditionally associated with the Tories, but it is a word that Labour used again and again last week. "For All" are normally Labour's words, but the Conservatives are trying to appropriate them: they appeared this week in Mr Major's own handwriting. In Blackpool, almost every speaker talked of Labour standing up for "the many", while the Tories governed for "the few". This charge Mr Major personally rejected yesterday.

The floating voters of the Centre need Tory attention. But the strategy has its risks too. Conservatives have been infuriated by the way in which Mr Blair has tackled his party to the right. They fear that their disillusioned voters will now see Labour as moderate and safe enough to support. If the Tories are tacking to the left towards Labour, they will reinforce the message that, in central economic policy areas, there is little to choose between the two parties.

There is certainly a much bigger dif-

ference between the two men. It was this point that Mr Major was at pains to emphasise yesterday. He painted himself as the man of the people, someone who had known poverty, who had attended grammar school, who had worked his way up from "two rooms in Brixton" to 10 Downing Street. In one of the older political inversions of recent years, it is a Labour leader who is now portrayed as a public-school toff, a member of the chattering classes, a man who has known nothing but a comfortable life. If snobbery is no longer allowed in John Major's classless society, inverted snobbery has been given a free rein.

Neither man chose his background: both men, however, have developed their own personalities. Mr Blair has made himself a strong leader; he has dragged his party, sometimes kicking and screaming, exactly where he has wanted it to go. He is audacious, occasionally reckless, and in Blackpool he came close to taking the purple mantle of a prophet. Mr Major is cautious and understated, a leader who tacks and weaves to keep his party intact. His activists warmly applauded his modesty and humanity yesterday. His promise to be there with them, "north, south, east and west", during the election campaign summed up a style that inspires troops by doing, not saying, by mucking in with them, not leading from the hill above.

Voters will decide which they prefer. They will have plenty of opportunity for future examination. Politics seems set to become more personal in the months ahead. This is a fair game. The experience of the past two Tory leaders has illustrated how profoundly the character of Prime Ministers stamps itself upon the success or otherwise of their administrations.

It can be a rough game too. The Tory advertising will have to be both loud and rough. But Mr Major, whose insults flew pretty low yesterday, might remember that decency is one of the traits that the British people like in him.

MALAN GOES FREE

A good verdict for the reputation of South Africa

The acquittal of Magnus Malan, South Africa's former Defence Minister, and those accused with him of masterminding the massacre of 13 black women and children in 1987, is a verdict that will enhance South Africa's reputation overseas for maturity and stability. That a judge should be free to deliver a verdict so politically unpopular, and that President Mandela should immediately endorse the decision of the court as final, is a tribute to the courage and independence of the judiciary. It is also clear evidence that South Africa has resisted popular pressure for lynch-mob retribution against those associated with the apartheid years.

Nevertheless, within South Africa the verdict is intensely controversial, and may yet inflame passions in a way deeply damaging to stability and race relations. The Inkatha Freedom Party and the National Party are relieved: many Afrikaners saw the indictment of General Malan as an ominous sign that thousands associated with the former regime were now liable to hounding through the courts.

The reaction from the African National Congress, however, is likely to be explosive. There is little concept among radical politicians of *sub judice* rules, and the indictments of General Malan and top military officers were taken as guilty verdicts, prompting ANC satisfaction and extensive comment. This judicial reversal has therefore come as a shock, and is bound to lead to accusations against Mr Justice Jan Hugo personally, and against what is seen as apartheid-era domination of the legal system.

There is a widespread feeling in the ANC — and not only in that party — that wicked things were done directly by members of the apartheid Government. The tight control of affairs at the top must have meant that senior figures had full knowledge of, or gave tacit approval for, killings and widespread human rights abuses. Between 1990 and 1994 the National Party had plenty of time to destroy all evidence linking its politicians with such deeds. It is therefore exceptionally difficult now to mount a credible case in a court of law as the crucial evidence is missing. This will only increase the ANC's frustration that murderers and torturers seem to be escaping retribution.

One effect of the verdict may be to put more backbone into the members of the Truth Commission, which has been investigating the apartheid years in a somewhat desultory and amateur manner. The Commission has lacked bite, and has often floundered during hearings of former politicians, some of whom have freely admitted errors and moral culpability. It may now feel that with the judicial avenue for retribution unpromising, it has a more urgent responsibility to name names and secure evidence of wrongdoing.

General Malan has, sensibly, thanked President Mandela for the chance to prove his innocence in court. He should also thank him for his clear attempt to uphold the courts' shaky authority. For if the ANC reaction leads to widespread unrest, many a judge will now prefer to take an easier line and bow to the political mood.

LEGENDS OF SPORT

What Sir Colin can do for Prime Minister and country

Winning is fun. So is talking about winning. As so often, the Prime Minister was at his warmest and most enthusiastic when talking yesterday about sport. Mr Major has both a plan and a man. Just as Richard Branson was launched against litter and Trevor McDonald is still jousting against bad English, so Sir Colin Cowdrey is to be cast into Britain's sport-free zones. His job is to bring heroes and heroines to even the most unheroic inner-city playgrounds.

We wish him well. But as previous figureheads might tell Sir Colin, it is when the political spotlight has been turned off that the real troubles begin. While Mr Branson took the job at the height of his yoozon popularity and Mr McDonald is on TV most nights, Sir Colin is genuinely, as Mr Major put it, "legendary". The man whose captaincy of Oxford was in 1954 will need to recruit some rather younger role models if his political innings is to last.

So short is life at the top in most sports these days that our children think of Gary Lineker, if they think of him at all, as a football commentator and salesman for potato crisps. Some sporting heroes, such as Michael Atherton and Daley Thompson, may be able to play a role in the Premiership division, but Mr Major would more or less approve. But many footballers in the Premiership division are merely examples of how to become a millionaire by leaving school at 16.

Eric Cantona became a children's coach because of a court order. Other sporting heroes, such as Paul Gascoigne, Dominic

Cork, Linford Christie, Phil Tufnell and the now "legendary" Ian Botham have devoted their lives to sport, but arguably more obsessively than most children could, or should. Sporting heroes can teach the young how to shoot — and volley and keep a straight bat and even make a stiff upper lip. But the true heroes of school sports are elsewhere.

Teachers have to be at school every day, not just on a flying visit. Until more are prepared to stay after school and to turn out at weekends to coach, to referee and to show interest in duffers as well as stars, sport will continue to be a losing activity. Until teachers rediscover the ideals of competitive sports as both fun and discipline for life's great game, sporting ambassadors will have nowhere to leave their credentials.

Until the improvident sale of playing fields for development is stopped, and new spaces opened in this crowded island, fewer children will have anywhere to play team games. And even that is not sufficient to bring the sporting success that Mr Major requires. Sporting genius flowers in the worst and best of soils. Bradman trained his eagle eye by hitting a golf ball with a stump over and over again. Diego Maradona learnt his footwork in the slum streets of Buenos Aires with a ball made from rags. Seve Ballesteros played every stroke in the golf bag with a three-iron behind the caddy shed. Distinguished ambassadors can inspire us all — but they especially inspire the politicians who first appointed them.

Church dilemma on homosexuals

From the Rector of Hawkehill

Sir, So the Church of England is demanding an apology from the BBC (report, October 11) over a *Thought for the Day* piece in which Ann Atkins accused the Church of giving "an uncertain sound" over homosexuality.

Mrs Atkins is quite correct if she is referring to the House of Bishops, whose members have made unofficial statements open to contradictory interpretations. The involvement of a bishop in next month's celebration by the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement in Southwark Cathedral further confuses the situation.

According to your report the Church of England tolerates lay homosexuals in committed relationships; but its official position is based upon a private member's motion which I put to the General Synod in 1987, as amended by the House of Bishops. It stated that homosexual practice "is to be met by a call to repentance" and was passed by a 98 per cent majority.

No other report or statement on the issue has been debated, let alone approved, by the General Synod since.

Yours sincerely,

TONY HIGGON.

The Rector,
Hawkehill, Hockley, Essex.
October 11.

From the Reverend David Dale

Sir, Mrs Atkins has correctly discerned the causal relationship between the laissez-faire doctrine and ethics and the appalling numerical decline of the Church of England. This doctrine lost the equivalent of a congregation of 86 every two months last year.

The tragedy is that this relationship is not more widely discerned, and worse, that no effective steps to stem the decline are being taken.

I have recently attended two meetings called to discuss the decline in vocations and income. Not once was any attempt made to find out the cause and the only action decided on was to manage the decline more effectively.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID DALE,

All Saints' Vicarage,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.

From the Reverend Vaughan Roberts

Sir, The only sadness in the recent controversy over a *Thought for the Day* broadcast condemning homosexual practice was the reported criticism of it by the Church of England.

The speaker was simply arguing a position which is taught by the Bible and has been held by the vast majority of Christians throughout history, and she did so with compassion and sensitivity.

It is hard enough to stand for Christ and his standards in an increasingly secular world without being undermined by church officials and bishops, such as those who support the forthcoming gay celebration in Southwark Cathedral.

Yours faithfully,

V. E. ROBERTS,

St Ebbe's Flat,
11 Roger Bacon Lane, Oxford.
October 11.

From the Reverend Eric Shegog

Sir, May I clarify my concern about Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*. The issue is not about what Mrs Atkins said about homosexuality. She is entitled to her view, which is shared by others in the Church.

Our major concern was the use of a platform to attack the Church of England, which did not have an immediate right of reply. Our concern, therefore, is with the BBC as the broadcaster, not with Mrs Atkins or her views on homosexuality.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC SHEGOG

(Director of Communications),
The General Synod of the
Church of England,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1.
October 11.

Bournemouth Tories

From Mr Julian Washington

Sir, I offer some free advice to the leaders of any divided political party which is seeking election victory: do not spend the greater part of your conference calling the party to unity in full view of the media. This only serves to remind the electorate just how divided you really are and convinces us that unity will give way to mutiny as the polling stations close.

Yours faithfully,

JULIAN WASHINGTON,

14 Equity Square,
Shackleton Square, E2.
October 11.

From Mrs Margaret Livens

Sir, Your picture today of Kenneth Clarke and his wife does more for Kenneth Clarke, for family values, for women and indeed for the Tory party than anything contrived by spin-doctors and image-makers.

I trust that the Clarks will forgive me for personal comment. I am confident that they are confident enough not to care. I could (almost) vote Tory.

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET LIVENS,

2 Arundel Drive,
Brancote Hills, Nottingham.
October 11.

Nuclear secrets and Stalin's spies

From Professor Joseph Rotblat, FRS

Sir, Mr Benedict Birnberg (letter, October 7) wonders why the Western Allies did not share with the Soviet Union, their ally during the Second World War, information about the development of the atom bomb. Actually, this information would not have "assisted Russia and speeded the end of the war" as he suggests. The war in Europe ended before the first atom bomb was made.

However, sharing nuclear information could have had a tremendous effect on the political climate in the post-war world.

In 1944, long before the atom bomb was ready, the great Danish physicist, Niels Bohr, foresaw the dire consequences of the nuclear arms race — the inevitable result of keeping Russia out of nuclear developments. He suggested that the secrets be shared with Russia, before the atom bomb was used, and that Russia should join in the international control of nuclear energy in both its military and civilian aspects.

President Roosevelt appeared to be very sympathetic to this idea, but it was decisively rejected by Winston Churchill. He said in 1944: "It seems to me Bohr ought to be confined or at any rate made to see that he is very near the edge of mortal crimes."

President Truman, too, was strongly opposed to any sharing of nuclear information. He wanted to retain for the United States the newly acquired enormous military superiority, in the face of the growing antagonism with the Soviet Union. In 1945 his Secretary of State, James Byrnes, is reported to have said: "Our possessing and demonstrating the bomb would make Russia more manageable."

As it happened, thanks to the spying activities of Klaus Fuchs, the Soviet Union acquired the atom bomb in four years. This started the nuclear

arms race and the accumulation of enormous arsenals, bringing us several times to the brink of a nuclear confrontation and the end of civilisation.

Yours faithfully,

J. ROTBLAT,

8 Asmara Road, NW2.
October 8.

From Mr Michael Magarian

Sir, In his characterisation of Soviet spies as "heroes, not traitors" and castigation of Allied governments for a "betrayal" of their Soviet partner, Mr Birnberg concentrates on the period following June 1941.

We should remember though that those who helped Stalin in the initial years of the war necessarily helped Hitler too. A quiet Eastern Front was indispensable to Hitler's Western aggression.

By lending such valuable assistance, these spies could hardly be called heroic and the only betrayal was Stalin's pact of friendship with Hitler.

Yours faithfully,

M. MAGARIAN,

Royal Automobile Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
October 7.

From Mr Peter G. Embrey

Sir, A "dispassionate retrospective assessment" would not selectively ignore the fact that Nazi Germany, rather than ourselves, was Stalin's first choice as an ally.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of August 1939 demonstrated Stalin's untrustworthiness; and is more than enough to demolish absurd claims of high-minded, pro-Western virtue for Soviet spies.

Yours faithfully,

P. G. EMBREY,

19 Edith Road, Barons Court, W14.
October 8.

Oxford's new admissions system

From the Chairman of the Joint Undergraduate Admissions Committee

Sir, On the day (October 7) that you report that top private schools have attacked the new Oxford admissions system, it was reported elsewhere that Mr David Blunkett, MP, believes that Oxford and Cambridge may be biased towards public schools. Both Oxford and Cambridge are often subject to criticism, in equal measure, by the private and state school sectors.

Nevertheless, your report of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference debate draws attention to some misconceptions about our new admissions system — a system based on interview and school reports rather than on a common entrance examination, and designed to ensure more equitable assessment and a more equitable distribution of the most talented applicants across the colleges.

Under the new system there will be greater opportunity for allocation of candidates to under-subscribed colleges, and we will continue to ensure, by the closest co-operation between tutors, that the very best applicants are given the maximum opportunity at

more than one college. This will be combined with greater involvement within subjects, also designed to ensure that the brightest across the board get places.

The interview has always been an important and integral part of the Oxford selection process; but it is now coupled with focused written tests and submission of written work by the candidates, where appropriate, in order to give tutors a complete picture.

What must not be forgotten is the reason for these reforms in the first place. We are very conscious of the difficulty of choosing amongst so many candidates of all backgrounds with top A-level grades, and we are determined to continue to apply individualised selection, and to ensure that all our candidates receive full and fair consideration irrespective of their educational background.

Yours faithfully,

RUTH DEECH, Chairman,

Joint Undergraduate Admissions
Committee,
Oxford University,
University Offices,
Wellington Square, Oxford.
October 7.

Brussels rule

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Your report (Weekend Shopping, October 4) that Asda are giving away small apples in protest at a Brussels rule preventing their sale is very funny but is also very serious, as it is a good symptom of the fundamental fault that makes the EU so dangerous.

A rule this absurd could not come into being if our laws were generated by the democratic principle that the will of the people, expressed through their elected representatives, is what creates acceptable law.

The EU has not been created under the pressure of public will but is an idea which a group of politicians and bureaucrats have imposed upon the many by their skilful abuse of power and the obfuscation of their aims.

More and more of the laws which we are obliged to obey are imposed upon us, not after debate in Parliament, but at the whim of bureaucrats whose democratic accountability is less than a fig leaf.

Power tends to grow and it is from such unrestrained power that dictatorship can spring. Most of our EU partners should know this, having lived

under such governments within the past half century. It is disturbing they did not learn more from the experience.

Yours faithfully,

G. THOMAS,

17 Campden Hill Square, W8.

From Mr Terence Wilson

Sir, Whilst enjoying the fascinating programme *Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast* on BBC2 last Tuesday, I noticed the shops in Umbria openly displayed fresh food, including the butcher, whose hams and sausages were hanging outside his shop in the village street.

Meanwhile, our local butcher in a nearby village has gone out of business because of the prohibitive cost of hygienic tiling and new refrigerators.

Is this yet another example of Britain blindly following the dictates of Brussels while the rest of Europe does exactly as it has always done?

Yours faithfully,

T. WILSON,

Linden,

8 Clarksmead, Maldon Road,
Tiptree, Colchester, Essex.
October 9.

Dawn raid

From Mr Brian Simpson

Sir, I was woken at 4am today by the phone. Hearing a fax tone I switched on my machine — and an unsolicited advertisement emerged.

Ordinary junk mail is bad enough, but at least you don't have to pay for the paper it's printed on and it doesn't wake you in the night.

Should there not be legislation against such abuse of the telephone network?

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN SIMPSON,

50 Milton Park, Highgate, N6.
October 9.

Weekend Money letters, page 37

Letters for publication may
be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Modern alchemy and ancient gold

From Dr John Wilkinson

Sir, It is a coincidence that Bernard Levin's article on gold ("Travels in golden realms", October 4; see also letters, October 8), in which he referred to alchemy, appeared on the same day as your obituary of my brother Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson.

The obituary commented on Geoffrey's work at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory of the University of California in the late 1940s, which involved the production of a large number of new isotopes of the chemical elements. These included some new isotopes of gold, formed when platinum was bombarded in the cyclotron. This was the first time that gold, albeit in infinitesimally small quantity, had been produced from another substance — modern alchemy.

The occasion was marked by a press release made by the laboratory's director, Professor Glenn T. Seaborg, also a Nobel laureate, which resulted in an article in a San Francisco newspaper under the headline "Scientists discover gold mine in cyclotron".

Needless to say, this was not a commercial proposition. A short time later Geoffrey abandoned nuclear chemistry for research in inorganic chemistry, where his contribution has been outstanding.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WILKINSON,
Owlers, Todmorden, West Yorkshire.
October 5.

From Major F. N. L. Chapman

Sir, Bernard Levin's article on gold has a flowing peroration — "to think that it is, and always has been and always will be, absolutely... useless". This must be challenged.

Gold in Medici and Fabergé objects d'art is essential; it transforms bronze into ormolu for fine furniture and enhances bronze figures with inlay, as shown in the British Museum's current exhibition of new discoveries from the early Chinese dynasties.

It is useful in industry and in dentistry and a little more of it would improve my own "feel-good" factor.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK L. CHAPMAN,
The Old Surgery, Gloucester Street,
Painswick, Gloucestershire.
October 5.

Colnbrook tribute

From Sir Gordon Reece

Sir, Your obituary of Lord Colnbrook (October 7) could not be complete without some mention of his personal qualities and his gift for friendship.

Humphrey Colnbrook could not have been more unlike the traditional Chief Whip. He was courteous, a lot of fun, patient and kindly, quiet, discreet, loyal and generous, and valued family and friends above ambition.

When I told Lady Thatcher of his death, and after inquiring after his family, she said of him: "Integrity, loyalty... no malice."

No life of 74 years can be encapsulated in four words, but it is a valdication that all his friends will recognise.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON REECE,
Buck's Club, 18 Clifford Street, W1.
October 11.

Same again

From Mr Frank Hare

Sir, The BBC's broadcast (Radio Choice, October 9) of the seventieth anniversary transmission of the first choral evensong on October 9, 1926, revealed that politically the world has improved very little.

The closing prayers were for Northern Ireland, the Balkans and "Palestine".

Yours faithfully,
FRANK HARE,
Homend Cottage, Chapel Lane,
Cradley, Worcestershire.
October 9.

Net confusion

From Mr David Stirling

Sir, We may be right to fear a flood of less than appetising material coming into our homes via the Internet (report, October 11).

Having typed "zen" into a search field in an attempt to find an enlightening discussion on Buddhism, it rapidly came to rest on a group titled allsexseniorcitizens.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STIRLING,
The Wheel, 9 High Street,
Waltham on the Wolds,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.
October 8.

Face-saving

From Mr Edward Wake-Walker

Sir, There is a tendency in the media today to shirk the real issues that affect us, however unsavoury they may sometimes be.

It was particularly tantalising to read (report, October 8) that *Woman's Hour* fifty years ago broadcast a method of de-starching a flannel. You didn't get to hear how it is done, by any chance?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD WAKE-WALKER,
5 West Street,
Kingston, Wareham, Dorset.
October 8.

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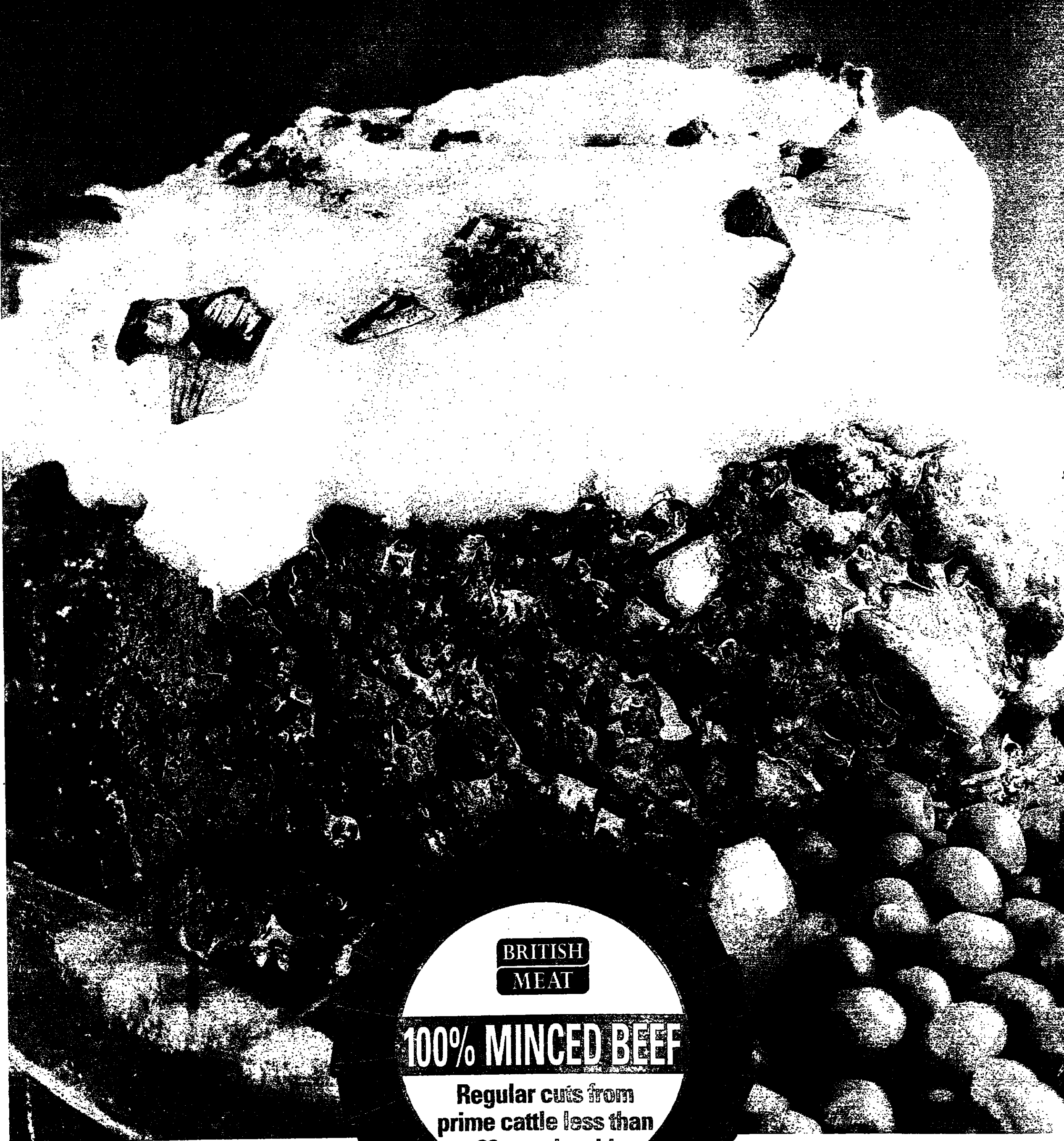


Peter Brookes, political cartoonist
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